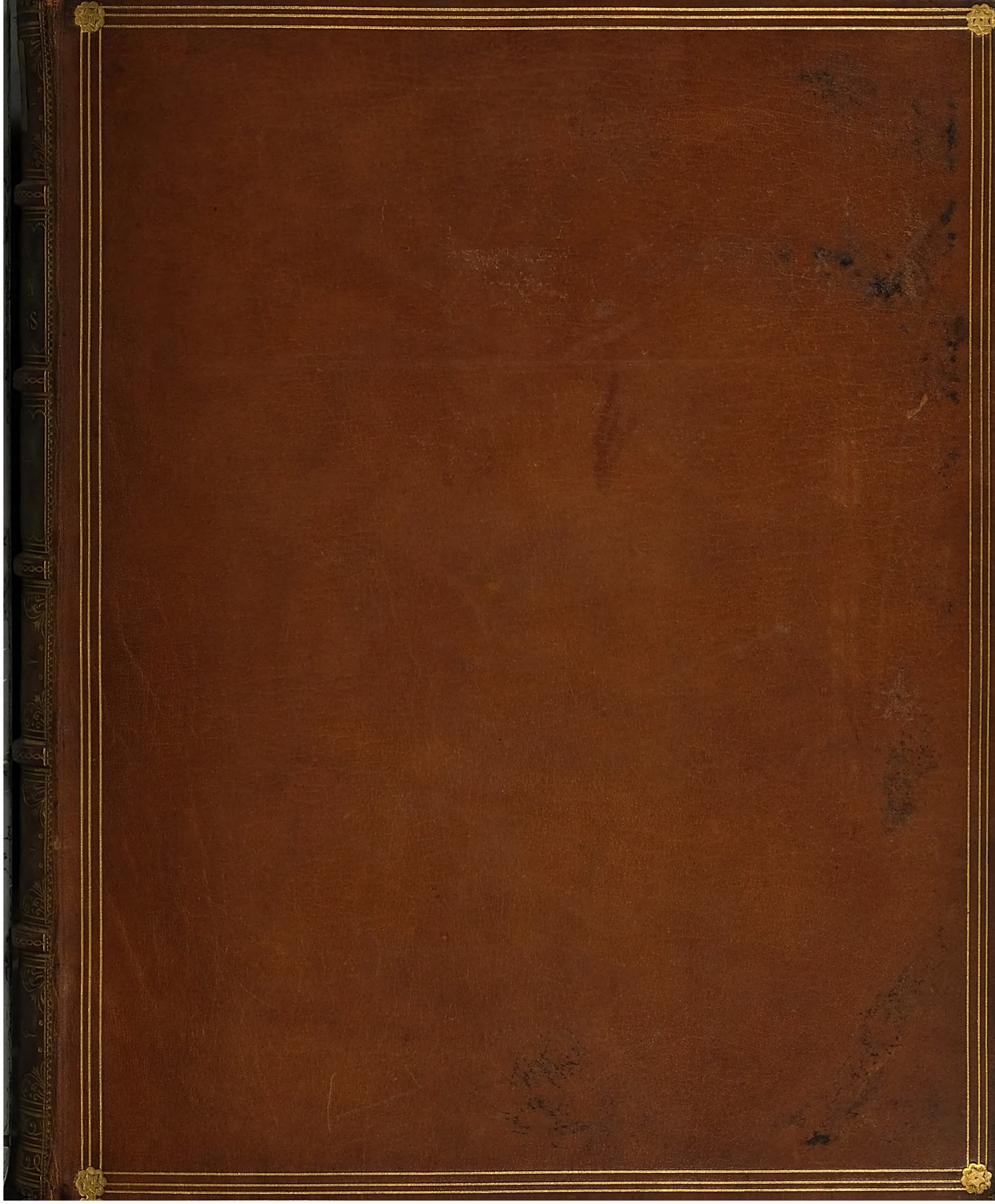
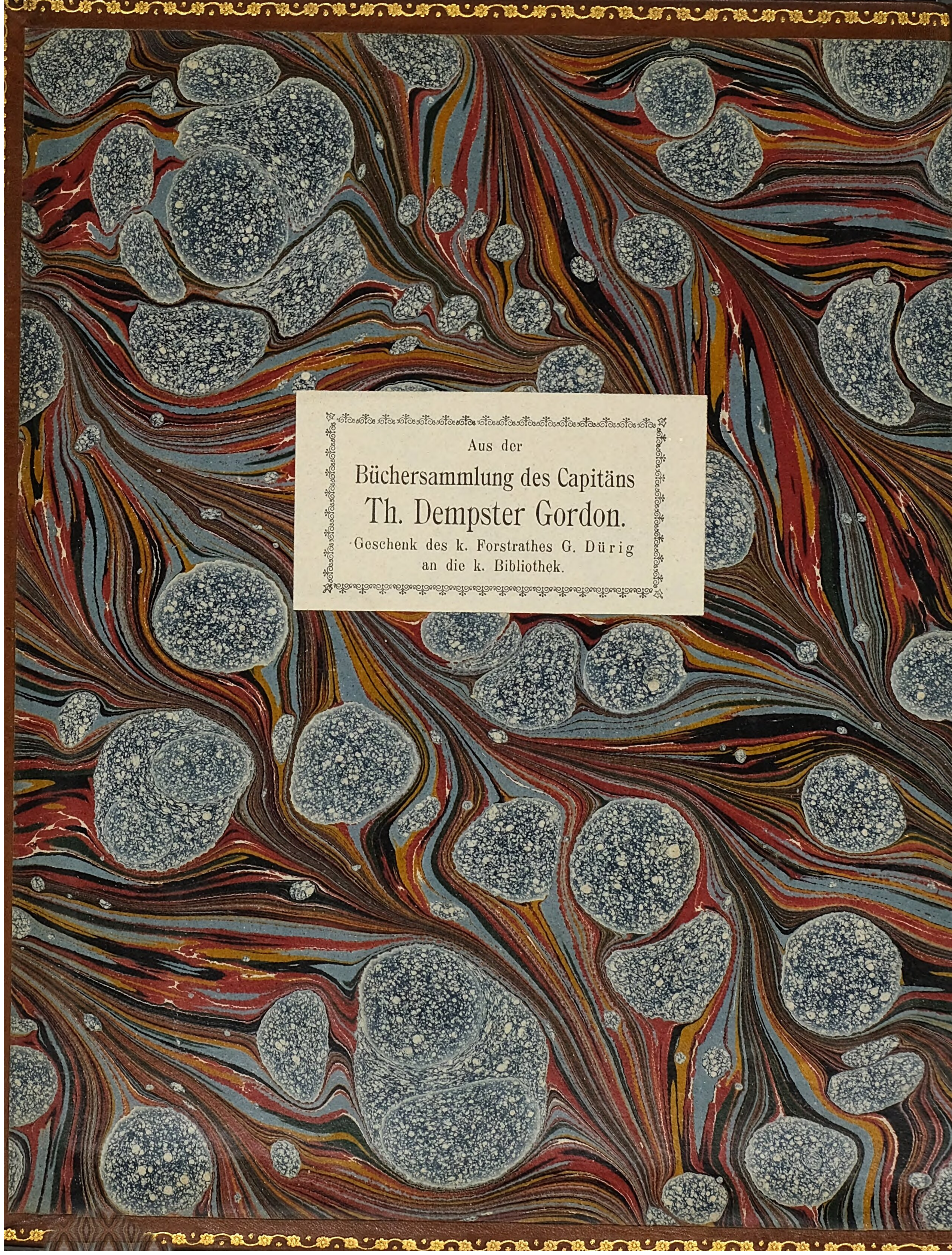




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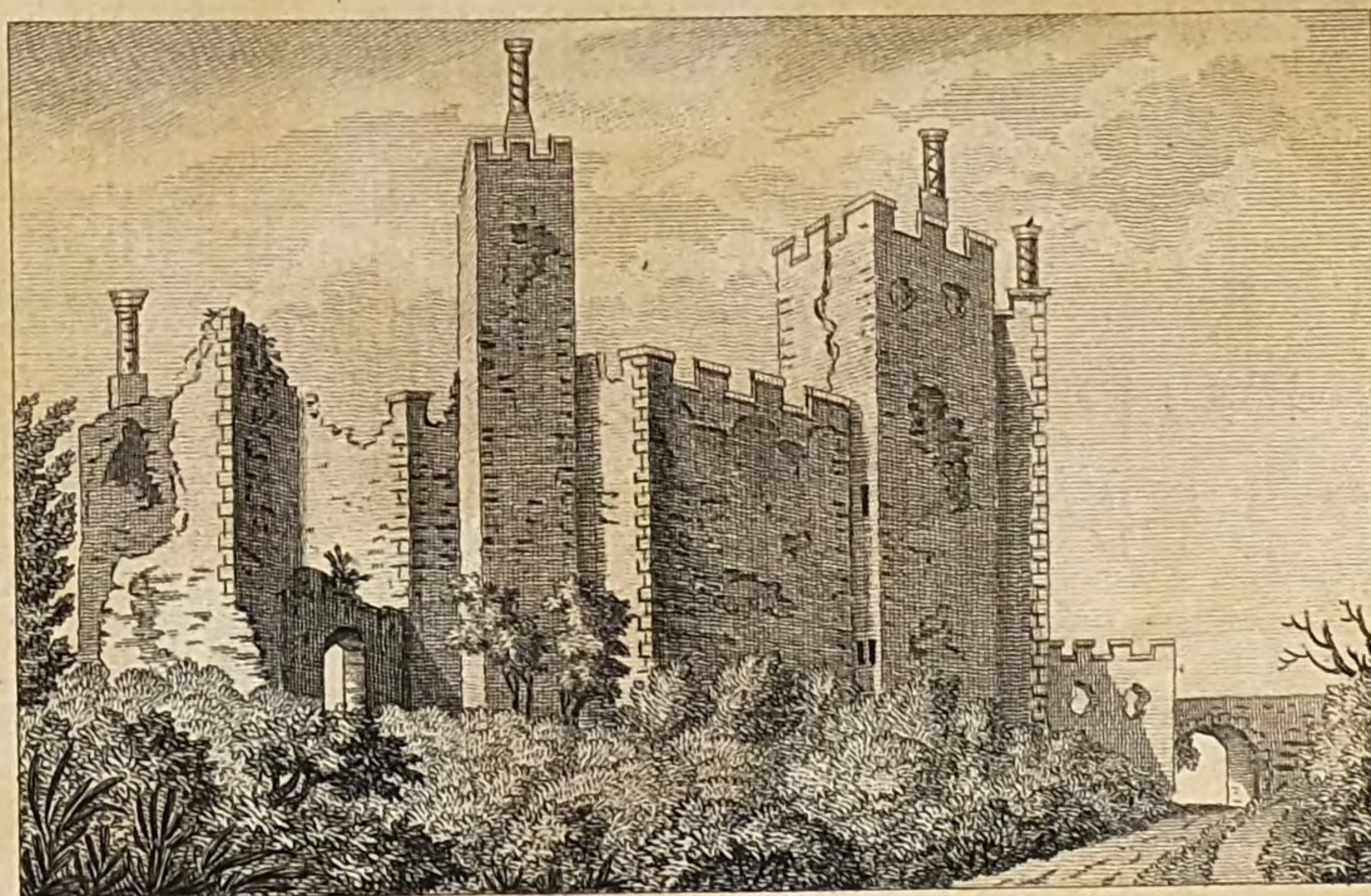
WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.



Framlingham Castle.

LONDON,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Paternoster-Row, 1789.



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ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

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RICHARD III.

By various Persons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

CONTAINING

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AND

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewise
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By Sir JOHN FENN, Knight, M.A. and F.A.S.

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“Litera scripta manet.”

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L O N D O N

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MDCCLXXXIX.

C O N T E N T S

O F

V O L. IV.

E D W A R D IV. 1460.—1483.

L E T T E R I.

Thomas Playters, to John Paston, or Margaret Paston.

April, 1461.—1 E. IV.

SUIT at law against Powtrell and Tanfield.—Delays.—Exceptions.—Other matters, &c.—Sir William Paston's testament.—Earl of Wiltshire's head set on London bridge.—Poynings.—The king coming from Middleham castle.—Berwick full of Scotts.—A battle expected, &c. page 2

L E T T E R II.

Richard Calle, to John Paston.

5 June, 1461.—1 E. IV.

At Framlingham, on business relative to Caister.—Could not see the duke of Norfolk.—Messages passed between the duke and him.—His advice to J. Paston.—Releases made to the duke.—No writs for the parliament.—Todenham and Heydon said to be pardoned.—Wingfield and Fitzwilliam blamed.—Geer to be delivered, &c. 6

VOL. IV.

L E T-

L E T T E R III.

. . . . Denyes, to John Paston.

Before July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Recounts his distresses.—Twyer harrasses him by means of Heydon.—Dismissed the king's house.—Desires that the earl of Warwick may be applied to for his relief, as he was with him at the battles of Northampton and St. Alban's, &c. - - - - - page 10

L E T T E R IV.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

End of June, or beginning of July, about 1461.—1 E. IV.

Business with Wychingham and Inglos.—Wood and hay cheapest in July.—Appleyard.—Church brought to the castle, and intends to appeal some one.—A fugar-loaf.—Girdle.—Paper dainty, &c. - - - - - 14

L E T T E R V.

Thomas Denyes, to Margaret Paston.

July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

The king to be informed of the demeaning of the shire.—The assent of the commons to be sent to him.—Election of J. Paston.—Proverb.—Berney slothful.—A compliment to Margaret Paston, &c. - - - - - 18

L E T T E R VI.

John Paston, to his cousin, Margaret Paston.

12 July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Desires her to settle matters between J. Berney and the Under-sheriff.—Sir Miles Stapylton displeases him by interfering in his business.—Election doubtful between Berney and Grey.—J. Paston's advice. - - - - - 20

L E T.

L E T T E R VII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

15 July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Informs him that she had written to J. Berney.—His answer.—Sir J. Tater-
fale and others take the parson of Snoring, &c. and put them in the stocks.—
Twyer accused of Thomas Denyes's death.—William Lynys and other Scots go
about the country and extort money, &c.—Jerningham threatens them.—Little
money to be gotten, &c. page 24

L E T T E R VIII.

John Berney, to John Paston, esq.

17 July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Tells him that the Under-sheriff shall receive no hurt from him.—Mentions
his demeaning at the election.—Shows how he may now satisfy the commons.
—Advice to the Under-sheriff, &c. 28

L E T T E R IX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

18 July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

J. Paston is desired to get a commission to try those concerned in the murder
of Thomas Denyes, and in robberies, &c. that they might be punished as an
example to others.—The priest of Caister taken heed to.—M. Paston desires
her husband to be careful of himself, as his enemies threaten him, &c. 30

L E T T E R X.

James Gloys, to John Paston.

25 July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

A report that J. Paston and others had employed one to accuse the bishop of
Norwich, sir Thomas Todenham, &c. of treason.—The bishop beloved by the
laity.—Wishes for J. Paston's instructions, &c. 32

L E T T E R XI.

John Paston, to his cousin, Margaret Paston.

28 July, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Informs her of the death of her uncle John Berney.—His worth.—Care to be taken, and enquiries made.—Thomas Holler entrusted with the knowledge of his property.—Cautions relative to him, &c. - - - page 36

L E T T E R XII.

William Jenney, to John Paston, esq.

August, 1461 or 1462.—1 or 2 E. IV.

Thanks him for sending his son with his fellowship to Sporle.—Sick, and could not meet him.—Requests his fellowship to be there at some other time, &c. - - - 38

L E T T E R XIII.

John Russe, to John Paston.

23 August, 1461.—1 E. IV.

A letter written to his son, informing him of his father's treatment.—The king in the north.—Not coming yet into Norfolk.—A good character of J. Paston, junior, who is with the king.—His father advised to allow him more money.—Cautioned against his adversary, &c. - - - 42

L E T T E R XIV.

John Paston, eldest son, to John Paston, esq.

23 August, about 1461 or 1462.—1 or 2 E. IV.

An account of his application to the earl of Essex to solicit the king on his father's business.—His success.—The king's answer and observations.—Berners's promises and address.—Peacock his servant sent back.—His character.—The king's progress.—J. Paston borrows an hundred shillings of his uncle Clement.—Earl of Essex's attention to his father's affairs.—Berners's hints that a present to the lord treasurer is necessary, and mentions a method of doing it.—A dispute between Howard and his father, who is said to have been hurt with a dagger.—Good wishes, &c. - - - 46

L E T-

C O N T E N T S.

L E T T E R XV.

Clement Paston, to John Paston.

August, about 1461 or 1462.—1 or 2 E. IV.

Howard's behaviour to J. Paston.—His son informed of it, that he may tell the truth in the king's house.—Young Paston not settled in the household.—No livery of victuals, &c.—Wykes.—Clement Paston first recommends the young man's return home, but thinks it may displease the king.—Money must be sent to him.—In the mean time he will advance some, &c. - page 52

L E T T E R XVI.

James Gloys, to John Paston, esq.

24 September, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Blake's business.—Yelverton going to London.—The duke of Gloucester to have Caister.—Revel in Suffolk, by Yelverton and Jenney.—Disagreement between J. Paston and his mother.—Duke of Norfolk coming to Framlingham, &c. - 58

L E T T E R XVII.

John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, to John Paston, esq.

12 October, 1461.—1 E. IV.

Requires his attendance at London on his coming at age, when he was to take possession of his lands and offices, &c.—Others to be summoned in his livery, &c. - 62

L E T T E R XVIII.

. to John Paston.

December or January, between 1460 and 1462.—1 and 2 E. IV.

The writer's visit to the parson of Blofield.—His cheve day.—Exchange of lands.—Yelverton's proceedings.—The writer's advice concerning the parson of Blofield.—J. Paston's friends.—Hugh Fenn to be of his counsel.—Proverbs.—Probate of a will.—Account of Robert Ferrers, &c. - 64

L E T

L E T T E R XIX.

Thomas Howys, to John Paston, esq.

February, 1461-2.—1 E. IV.

Asks for the next presentation of the church of Drayton, for his nephew.—Communications with Worcester concerning lands, &c.—Bills ready by the next term.—120,000 men to land in England in different places, in favour of Henry and Margaret.—The earl of Warwick to be informed of it, &c. page 68

L E T T E R XX.

Richard Calle, to John Paston.

15 March, 1461-2.—2 E. IV.

Hay and barley.—Money, none to be gotten at Hellefdon, and but little at Swainsthorpe.—Sessions at Thetford.—Privy seals commanding attendance on the king.—Berney, &c. in danger of death.—Ambassadors from the duke of Burgundy.—Assizes at Thetford, &c. - - - 72

L E T T E R XXI.

James Gresham, to John Paston, esq.

24 March, 1461-2.—2 E. IV. (uncertain).

The king to keep his Easter at Bury, and thence into Norfolk.—The king thanks justice Yelverton for his charge at Cambridge, and desires him to give the same in Norfolk, &c. - - - 76

L E T T E R XXII.

John Davy, to John Paston.

. . . . After 1460.—E. IV.

Enquiries made of Buffard, about evidences, deeds, &c. belonging to sir John Fastolf's estates.—Deliveries to Worcester.—A chronicle of Jerusalem.—A book of the valiant acts of sir John Fastolf, in France, &c. - 78

L E T-

L E T T E R XXIII.

John Paston, the son, to John Paston.

October, in the beginning of E. IVth's reign I believe.

An account of the proceedings at Hemnales-hall.—Distresses.—Silver gotten.—Sir Gilbert Debenham's opposition.—The duke and duchess of Norfolk interfere, and conclude a temporary adjustment.—Strength of the fellowships.—His mother and J. Paston consent conditionally to the duke's proposals.—J. Paston wishes to know his father's opinion.—His mother's excuse for not writing, &c.

page 80

L E T T E R XXIV.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

November, between 1461 and 1465.—1 and 5 E. IV.

Winter purveyance.—Wroth speaks well of their daughter.—Her mother Agnes Paston asks him to procure a marriage for her grand-daughter.—He recommends sir John Cley's son.—Business contained in letters to her husband, &c.

88

L E T T E R XXV.

John Paston, to his cousin, Margaret Paston.

February, between 1461 and 1465.—1 and 5 E. IV.

Thanks for good cheer.—Desires worsted for doublets.—Money transactions between the late sir John Fastolf and the duke of Bedford.—Exactness of receiver's accounts.—Advice to sir Thomas Howys, concerning Worcester, &c.—Letters from his sons.—Familiar verses.—Money taken.—Calle's promise.—Lord Percy's remembrance, &c.

90

L E T T E R XXVI.

John, Lord Beauchamp, to sir Thomas Howys.

28 August, between 1461 and 1466.—1 and 6 E. IV.

Requests sir Thomas Howys's good offices with John Paston, in favour of William Worcester, who was displeased with him, relative to sir John Fastolf's will, &c.

96

L E T-

L E T T E R XXVII.

Sir George Browne, knight, to John Paston, esq.

Between 1461 and 1466.—1 and 6 E. IV.

Recommends loyalty, and assures him of his secrecy, &c. - page 100

L E T T E R XXVIII.

John Paston, junior, to John Paston.

Between 1461 and 1466.—1 and 6 E. IV.

Soldiers to be conveyed from Lynn to Yarmouth, on ship-board, under J. Paston's junior command.—The master of Carbrooke desirous of giving his liveries, and of a command.—Not approved by J. Paston.—Detains two of his father's men, as he has but few soldiers in his own livery, &c. - ibid.

L E T T E R XXIX.

. to Margaret Paston.

Between 1461 and 1466.—1 and 6 E. IV.

Requests her assistance and advice concerning the next shire or county court.—Fears master Radcliff.—His servant Maryot.—The writer's distresses.—M. Paston's help necessary.—A doctor of physic from Cambridge, &c. 104

L E T T E R XXX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

December, between 1461 and 1466.—1 and 6 E. IV.

Mentions her aunt's death.—Affairs at Walcot.—Advice concerning Hugh Fenn.—His character.—Pewter vessel, &c. - 106

L E T T E R XXXI.

Elizabeth Mundeford, to John Paston, esq.

February, between 1461 and 1466.—1 and 6 E. IV.

Explains the manner by which Edmund Rous had entered and taken possession of the manor of East Lexham.—Shews her title to it.—Hopes lord Warwick will not support Rous.—Desires J. Paston's, &c. assistance, &c. - 108

L E T -

LETTER XXXII.

John Ruffe, to John Paston.

. . . . 1462.—2 E. IV.

Earl of Worcester to be lord treasurer.—Asks the place of controller or searcher of Yarmouth.—Promises to present J. Paston's son yearly with money for a hackney if he succeed.—Owns himself J. Paston's servant.—Hopes his request will not be displeasing, &c. - - - - page 112

LETTER XXXIII.

John Paston, junior, to Margaret Paston.

5 July, between 1461 and 1469.—1 and 9 E. IV.

Lord Scales's offer of services disregarded.—The king's character of him.—J. Paston's pardon not to be obtained without much money.—A horse for his brother Edmund.—Scotch and Welsh busy, &c. - - 116

LETTER XXXIV.

John Ruffe, to John Paston.

15 July, 1462 or 1463.—2 or 3 E. IV.

Complains of Thomas Chapman's behaviour towards himself, and likewise towards J. Paston.—Wydville by means of Fenn assisted him.—The lord treasurer to be informed of Chapman's character.—His supporters.—Wishes J. Paston to be advised.—Tells him the people's opinion of him.—Requests the discharge of a debt due from Margaret Paston, &c.—Ship from Caen, &c. - - - - 120

LETTER XXXV.

Thomas Playters, to John Paston.

After July, 1462.—2 E. IV.

Christopher Hanson's death.—Embassy into Scotland by the earls of Warwick, Essex, &c. - - - - 124

x C O N T E N T S.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

John Paston, the elder son, to John Paston.

13 March, 1462-3.—3 E. IV.

Expences incurred by attending on the king.—Requests his father to secure him money before Easter.—Necessary both for his master's honour and his own, &c. - - - - - page 126.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

R. C. V. C. to John Paston.

Between 1462 and 1465.—2 and 5 E. IV.

Advice to J. Paston concerning keeping his son sir John Paston at home.—People's opinion that he is either out of the king's favour, or will not properly provide for his son.—A marriage with lady Chamberlayne not to take place, &c. - - - - - 128

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

James Gresham, to Margaret Paston.

Between 1462 and 1465.—2 and 5 E. IV.

A writ of fieri facias against J. Paston.—Reasons why it should not be executed, his goods being assigned over, &c.—Master Prowet and Clement Paston assignees.—The sheriff desires surety.—Refused.—Orders to oppose his taking possession, &c. - - - - - 130

L E T T E R XXXIX.

John Wykes, to Margaret Paston.

February, between 1462 and 1465.—2 and 5 E. IV.

Her friends all well.—The lord chancellor their friend—Judges, &c. met in the Exchequer.—Judgment against Dawbeney and others concerning a bondman.—Gives them cautions, &c. - - - - - 134

L E T

L E T T E R XL.

J. Daubeney, to John Paston.

2 July, 1463.—3 E. IV.

Informs J. Paston of a conversation relative to the command, manning, and victualling of ships.—J. Paston's son's liveries, murrey and tawny.—Skroope's message.—Earl of Warwick takes a castle in Scotland.—The queen and lords of Scotland come in embassy to him.—A truce, &c. - - - page 138

L E T T E R XLI.

Richard Calle, to John Paston, the younger.

July, 1463.—3 E. IV.

The barge of Yarmouth should have been commanded by J. Paston.—Debenham gets the command.—Method of victualling her.—Dispute between J. Paston and Debenham, &c. - - - 144

L E T T E R XLII.

Nicholas, Abbot of Langley, to sir John Paston, knight.

4 September, 1463.—3 E. IV.

Business done.—Messenger favourable to sir John Paston.—Requests the payment of some rents due to holy church.—Years unpaid.—Hints the peril of foul to those who with-hold them, &c. - - - 146

L E T T E R XLIII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

18 January, 1463-4.—3 E. IV.

Various messages and errands.—Sir Robert Coniers.—Letter from the king concerning the election for Norfolk.—The principal gentry in J. Paston's interest.—Thomas Gurney, a clerk convict.—His man hanged.—Their son J. Paston praised.—Heydon's son, a fine gentleman.—Steward to the prior.—Heydon's reflections on the candidates for Norfolk, &c. - 150

L E T T E R XLIV.

James Gresham, to John Paston.

26 January, 1463-4.—3 E. IV.

Account of law matters.—Counsel.—The king going into Gloucestershire, &c.—The lord chancellor coming.—Worcester's exceptions.—Feodmen to await upon the king, &c. - - - page 156

L E T T E R XLV.

John Pampynge, to John Paston, esquire.

Last day of February, 1463-4.—3 E. IV.

Information concerning the assizes at Bury and Thetford.—Indictments.—A man killed in Suffolk.—Few people at Thetford.—A Capias.—The king at Waltham.—Wymondham at Thetford with the king's livery.—The king's letter read, commanding justice to be done, and oppressors of the people to be punished.—The king is coming into Norfolk, &c. - - - 158

L E T T E R XLVI.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

13 May, between 1463 and 1465.—3 and 5 E. IV.

Directions concerning the commission of the peace.—Law proceedings against William Dylmyn, for detaining harness entrusted to his care.—An account and value of the harness delivered.—Recommends it to J. Paston to expedite his own matters.—Bishop of Norwich's speech to her, &c. 162

L E T T E R XLVII.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston.

November, between 1463 and 1466.—3 and 6 E. IV.

Blames him for his departure without her knowledge.—His father displeased.—Gives him proper advice.—Desires to hear how he goes on.—Jane Walsingham partial to Wykes.—Sir John's harness, &c.—Wants to be taken care of.—His grey horse.—His grandam desires to hear from him, &c. - 168

L E T.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

T. Davers, to sir John Paston, knight.

29 January, between 1463 and 1469.—3 and 9 E. IV.

Complains of hurts cowardly received from Pincheſter. — Deſires to be recommended to his patron. — Money to be raiſed, and how. — Ovid's works. — Lady Anne P. — A proverb. — Sir John Paſton's taſte. — Deſires to be recommended to various friends, &c. - - - page 172

L E T T E R XLIX.

Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

8 June, 1464.—4 E. IV.

Diſputes ſettled between the vicar of Dereham and maſter Conſtantine. — Sir Thomas Howys, at Blofield. — Inventory of ſir John Paſton's goods to be made. — Duke of Suffolk dying. — A commiſſion of enquiry given to ſir John Howard and lord Scales, concerning the Norfolk gentry not coming to the king in time. — The king's diſpleaſure. — Advifes J. Paſton to guard himſelf againſt his enemies, and to be cautious of taking medicines from London phyſicians, &c. — The gentlemen who went to the king returned, &c. - - - 176

N U M B E R L.

Edward IV. to John Paſton, eſquire.

10 September, 1464.—4 E. IV.

The king's appointment for the foundation of Caiſter College. — Three hundred marks, or ſilver plate to that value, to be given to the king for his favour, &c. — The king promiſes to be favourable touching the execution of ſir John Faſtolf's will. — To grant a pardon to J. Paſton, &c. for any riots, &c. — To examine and puniſh thoſe who have made falſe records againſt him. — To take no diſpleaſure againſt him without proof that he deſerves it, &c. - - - 182

L E T-

L E T T E R LI.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

May, between 1464 and 1466.—4 and 6 E. IV.

Gives J. Paston an account of what she had done, and to whom she had spoken concerning his business.—The Sexteyn's advice on his matters, which D. . . had neglected.—Fynes's attention to business.—She recommends to him my lord of Suffolk's good will both on his and on her own account.—Things to be bought, &c. - - - - -

page 188

L E T T E R LII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

October, between 1464 and 1466.—4 and 6 E. IV.

A conference with her cousin Rookwood.—A meeting at Acle, concerning sir John Fastolf's lands.—The poor wish for J. Paston's success at the parliament, that they might live better by their occupation of spinning, &c.—Wool sold.—Horses bought.—Mill and lands let.—Fears lest the earl of Warwick should shew too much favour to the Lancastrians.—The mayor of Norwich sends a dinner, and dines with Margaret Paston.—J. Perse in prison, examined by Brome, &c. - - - - -

194

L E T T E R LIII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

20 May, 1465.—5 E. IV.

Cattle distrained at Drayton, and brought to Helleston.—Proceedings thereupon.—Dutchy writ of replevin.—Sheriff's writ of replevin.—Delivery of the cattle, &c. - - - - -

200

L E T-

L E T T E R LIV.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

27 May, 1465.—5 E. IV.

Method advised to deprive Flowerdew of the rectory of Drayton.—Rising in prison.—The sheriff refuses to bring him to London at his own cost.—Weekly board in prison.—Her mother's business.—Tenants at Drayton well disposed to J. Paston, and dislike to the duke of Suffolk.—Intends seeing her husband privately unless he comes home soon, &c. — — — page 206.

L E T T E R LV.

Richard Calle, to John Paston.

10 July, 1465.—5 E. IV.

An account of the violent proceedings of the duke of Suffolk's men at Helleston.—Margaret Paston and sir John Paston there.—He got great credit.—A conversation.—A treaty.—Paston's men threatened.—An oyer and terminer to try rioters, &c.—Helleston flock at Causton.—J. Paston advised to make the duke of Norfolk his friend by money, &c. — — — 212.

L E T T E R LVI.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

12 July, 1465.—5 E. IV.

Complains of the violent proceedings of the duke of Suffolk's men at Helleston.—Mentions Calle's letter, and speaks of her bad treatment and ill health.—Proceedings at the assizes, &c. will be against J. Paston, &c.—The duke of Suffolk coming to Coffey.—M. Paston's conversation with Harleston.—Desires her husband's advice.—One of her people displeasing to her, &c. — 218.

L E T

L E T T E R LVII.

John Paston, the youngest, to Margaret Paston.

14 September, 1465.—5 E. IV.

Desires an answer from his father concerning the manor of Cotton, and from his aunt Poynings of some matters relative to her.—Two pair of hose to be sent.—The garrison at Helleston well.—The roads of Bermondsey to be visited.—His sister Margery to pray to them for a good husband.—Desires tidings, &c.

page 224

L E T T E R LVIII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

27 October, 1465.—5 E. IV.

Gives her husband a description of the terrible destruction made of the place, lodge, and church at Helleston, by the duke of Suffolk's men.—People come from all parts to see it, and speak shamefully of it.—Wishes it to be viewed before the snows come.—Hugh Fenn to be his friend.—The duke of Norfolk to be requested to assist him, as he is more loved and feared than any, except the king and the earl of Warwick, &c.

226

L E T T E R LIX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

2 November, 1465.—5 E. IV.

M. Paston's anxiety about her husband's imprisonment.—J. Paston is delivered out of the Fleet.—Beloved by the people.—Has the good will of the mayor and aldermen of Norwich.—Sir Thomas Howys and William Worcester now in J. Paston's interest.—Sir William Chamberlayn spoken to on matters touching my lord of Bedford.—Calthorpe spoken to.—Gurney J. Paston's friend.—Cold weather.—Sir Thomas Howys and John Ruffe intent on his affairs.—Her brother William.—Thomas Fastolf a ward, endeavoured to be set back in his age by those who had the custody of his livelihood, &c.

232

L E T-

L E T T E R LX.

John Wymondham, to John Paston.

10 November, 1465.—5 E. IV.

Informs him that there were persons dead, and dying in the house where his wife was, and that he had therefore invited her to come to him.—J. Wymondham and his lady at Norwich.—J. Paston to come there.—Stable.—board, &c.

page 240

L E T T E R LXI.

John Felbrigge, to John Paston.

27 January, 1465-6.—5 E. IV.

Requests his friendship concerning some matters of property.—Offers him an hundred marks.—His purchase money delayed.—Wishes the earl of Warwick to have the estate, &c.—Branches of it, &c.

242

L E T T E R LXII.

John Wykes, to sir John Paston, knight.

17 February, 1465-6.—5 E. IV.

Mistakes in their correspondence rectified.—Master Flemming's horse enquired for.—John Oter unpaid.—John Say tells sir John Paston's father of his behaviour towards his son, and blames him for it.—Marriages of the earl of Arundel's son, and of lord Lovel's son.—Sir John's fellows in the king's house, all well, &c.

246

L E T T E R LXIII.

John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, to John Paston.

31 August, before 1466.—6 E. IV.

A summons for his attendance at Framlingham on matters of importance, to be made known to him on his arrival, &c.

250

L E T T E R LXIV.

Roger Taverham, to John Paston, esq.

June, before 1466.—6 E. IV.

Speaks of J. Paston with great respect. — Informs him that he is going to Rome, &c. never to return.—Desires him to take care of his father.—Wishes for his blessing.—Offers J. Paston his estate at Taverham during his life.—Desires to be recommended to his father and all his friends, &c. page 252

L E T T E R LXV.

Roger Taverham, to John Paston, esq.

July, before 1466.—6 E. IV.

Thanks him for his letter.—His father dead.—The estate at Taverham comes to him as heir.—Lord Cromwell supports his younger brother's right.—Desires a letter of attorney.—The king, &c. will do him justice.—The place at Attlebrigg to be entered into in his name by lord Warwick, &c.—Lord Wenlock desires Taverham.—Requests to hear from J. Paston. - - - 258

L E T T E R LXVI.

B. D. M. S. to John Paston.

September or October, before 1466.—6 E. IV.

A former letter sent undirected.—J. Paston's cousin Mary gone away.—Her improper behaviour.—Her situation known by her own talking.—Wishes he had not been concerned for her.—She is not properly sensible of her fault, &c. 262

L E T T E R LXVII.

John Paston, to Margaret Paston.

Between 1460 and 1470.—1 and 10 E. IV.

He sends his mother three pots of Geneva.—The care taken that they may be genuine.—The merchant's mark, &c. - - - 264

L E T -

L E T T E R LXVIII.

Elizabeth Poynings, to sir John Paston, knight.

15 December, between 1465 and 1471.—1 and 11 E. IV.

Complains to sir John that sir Robert Fynes and others had taken possession of part of her livelihood.—Her jointure and the purport of her husband's will.—Sir Edward Poynings claims some estates.—Her reasons for granting them to him.—Requests sir John Paston's assistance in these affairs, and to procure a pardon for John Dane.—Wishes both to content and reward him, &c. page 266

L E T T E R LXIX.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

29 October, 1466.—6 E. IV.

Recommends it to him to take care of his writings, &c.—His father's attention to them.—A process expected.—Advice concerning his father's will.—His own matters to be attended to.—Expence.—Cautions him against his uncle William, &c. - - - - - 272

L E T T E R LXX.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

February, after 1466.—6 E. IV.

Acquaints him that W. Yelverton had been at Yarmouth after witnesses concerning sir J. Fastolf's disposal of Caister estate.—The characters of the witnesses, &c.—The barley gotten home, &c. - - - - - 276

L E T T E R LXXI.

William Worcester, to Margaret Paston, widow.

December, after 1466.—6 E. IV.

Conversation with sir John Paston concerning the place where sir John Fastolf's college should be founded.—The bishop of Winchester desirous of having it at Oxford.—W. Worcester, &c. wish for it at Cambridge.—Advowsons of less price than lordships, &c.—Vindicates his own character, &c. from various aspersions.—The importance of Caister, especially in time of war.—The monks at St. Benet's dispossess him of his chamber.—His respects to mistress Agnes Paston, &c. - - - - - 280

L E T T E R LXXII.

J. Straunge, to sir John Paston, knight.

January, between 1466 and 1469. — 6 and 9 E. IV.

Proposals for a marriage between J. Straunge, the writer's nephew, and Margery Paston.—Complains of Bedston.—Coming to London, &c. page 286

L E T T E R LXXIII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston, the younger.

December, between 1466 and 1470.—6 and 10 E. IV.

Informs him of a letter from her cousin Calthorpe, desiring that she would take her daughter Anne home, as he intended to contract his way of living.—Fears she may have displeased him.—Dislikes having her at home.—Desires her son's assistance.—Requests an account of such money as his brother has received of her since his father's death, &c. - - - 288

L E T T E R LXXIV.

Hugh Fenn, to sir John Paston, knight.

. . . between 1467 and 1469. — 7 and 9 E. IV.

Informs him of his servant having taken a distrefs illegally, and recommends it to him to return it, &c. — Keeps his mother's year-day. — Intends a visit at Caister.—Sir John Paston has no good title to the lands here mentioned, &c. - - - 290

L E T T E R LXXV.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

9 July, 1468.—8 E. IV.

Tells sir John that she has information that Helleston shall have new lords, &c. and that Fastolf of Cough-hawe intends attacking Caister.—Desires him to send help to strengthen it.—Tells him that she is not able to command foldiers, &c.—His enemies emboldened.—Wishes him to keep his friends, &c. 294

L E T-

L E T T E R LXXVI.

Thomas Howys, to the cardinal and archbishop of Canterbury.

10 October, 1468.—8 E. IV.

The duke of Norfolk desirous of purchasing the manor of Caister, &c.—
T. Howys wishes to oblige him.—J. Paston's pretended bargain, &c.—Other
manors to be sold to the archbishop, &c.—Asks his advice.—The duke of
Norfolk nearly allied to the cardinal, &c. - - - page 298

L E T T E R LXXVII.

Sir John Paston, to John Paston, esq.

9 November, 1468.—8 E. IV.

Four chosen men sent for the defence of Caister.—Their characters.—To be
courteously treated.—Men of the country afraid.—The king's promise.—The
duke of Norfolk expected in London.—Relief for Dawbeney.—Sheriff.—
Escheator.—Flower to be sent.—Obligations.—Bible, &c. - 302

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

Sir John Paston, to John Paston, or to John Dawbeney.

17 March, 1468-9.—9 E. IV.

Sir John presents master John Yotton to the free chapel of Caister, at the
queen's request.—The value of it.—Letters.—Whether institution or induction
are necessary, &c. - - - 308

L E T T E R LXXIX.

William Paston, to the bailiff of Mauteby.

Written perhaps in 1469.—9 E. IV.

Desires him to send four nobles by the bearer.—Cautions to be observed in
sending them.—Directions concerning his horse Bayard, &c.—The king com-
ing into the country, &c. - - - 310

L E T

L E T T E R LXXX.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston.

3 April, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Thanks sir John for her seal.—The price too high.—Wishes him joy of his engagement with a lady.—Gives him advice as to his marriage.—The duchess of Suffolk at Ewelme, and why.—His enemies bold.—Caister expensive.—Desires him to provide for his sister with lady Oxford, &c.—They are weary of each other.—The lord Scales sir John's friend.—Her good opinion of doctor Yotton.—An ouch sent.—Neckerchiefs for his sister Anne, &c. page 312

L E T T E R LXXXI.

John Paston, to sir John Paston.

7 April, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Desires him to inform lord Scales that sir William Calthorpe will keep his promise, and attend upon him at the king's coming into Norfolk.—This answer gotten through his wife.—Wishes sir John to come home.—A christian man.—Hats, &c. - - - - - 318

L E T T E R LXXXII.

Anthony, lord Scales, to

10 April, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Informs the party to whom he writes of the duke of Norfolk's claim to lands now sir John Paston's.—Sir John going to marry lord Scales's near kinswoman.—Requires the duke's counsel to cease their entry, &c. till the right shall be determined.—James Hobart to be informed, &c. - - - 322

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

Anthony, Lord Scales, to

10 April, 1469.—9 E. IV.

A marriage to take place between sir John Paston and the lord Scales's kinswoman Anne Hawte.—Earl Rivers and lord Scales inform their servants, &c. that they befriend sir John.—Desires the person to whom this letter is addressed to come to Norwich on sir John Paston's matters, &c. - - - 324

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

John Paston, knight, to John Paston.

. . . April, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Thanks him for his perseverance in keeping Caister.—Lady Boleyn averse to his addressing her daughter.—Her speech.—Sir John's advice to his brother respecting his behaviour both to the mother and the daughter.—Promises his own good offices in his behalf, &c. - - - page 326

L E T T E R LXXXV.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

April, 1469.—9 E. IV.

A conversation with Friar Mowth.—The Friar relates what passed between him and master Brackley on his death-bed, relative to sir John Fastolf's will, which will John Paston their father proved in the court.—A tourney at Eltham.—Lady Boleyn and her daughter at Norwich.—J. Paston not there.—Wishes to see his brother.—The household departing.—Money wanted, &c.

- - - 330

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

1469.—9 E. IV.

Thanks for hats.—The king at Norwich.—To be there again with the queen.—J. Paston requests lord Rivers and lord Scales, &c. to move the king in sir John Paston's matters.—A conversation between the king and Brandon.—The king's orders to him.—The king goes through Helleston, his observations on the lodge.—Advices sir John to take care that the law determines in his favour.—A dinner.—J. Paston's service not engaged.—Bernard, Broom, &c. sworn men to the duke of Gloucester.—A privy seal for sir John.—J. Paston desires his return to Caister.—Points, laces, &c. - - - 334

L E T-

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

May, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Richard Calle's proposal to marry their sister Margery. — She is desirous of the match. — Her brother dislikes it. — Apologizes for troubling sir John to buy him things. — Money. — Accounts at Caister. — The duke of Norfolk intends holding a court there. — J. Paston resolves to oppose him. — Thinks sir John Paston's behaviour towards the duke improper. — Wishes for his coming home. — Bows broken. — The duke of Norfolk to be informed of his desire to serve him, &c. - - - - - page 344

L E T T E R LXXXVIII.

Richard Calle, to Margery Paston.

1469.—9 E. IV.

Complains of their living asunder, being contracted together. — Blames her friends, and laments their situation. — A letter sent by his lad. — Endeavours used to deceive the boy by a token. — Fears her steadiness as to the contract. — His wish to oblige Margaret Paston, &c. — Thinks the family will not be disparaged by Margery Paston's marriage. — Wishes them proper connections. — Desires this letter to be burnt, &c. - - - - - 350

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

Before Michaelmas, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Relates the conversation which her mother and she had with the bishop of Norwich, concerning the contract of marriage between her daughter and Richard Calle. — Her daughter examined by the bishop. — Her behaviour there. — Calle's examination. — Sentence delayed. — M. Paston forbids her daughter to come to her house. — She is placed at Roger Best's. — Comforts sir John, and advises him to be easy. — The duke of Norfolk's assertion, &c. - - - 358

L E T-

L E T T E R XC.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston.

1 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Sir John Heveningham, a captain under the duke of Norfolk, at Caister.—Her request to him.—His refusal.—His proposal for an accommodation.—A friend's advice for indifferent people to be put into possession of Caister on certain conditions.—Desires to hear sir John's determination.—His honour concerned in relieving his friends at Caister.—Her good wishes.—Blames him for not answering her letters, &c. - - - page 366

L E T T E R XCI.

Sir John Paston, knight, to Master Writill.

September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Requests his assistance in continuing truce at Caister till Saturday.—Wishes an appointment to be taken.—If the king's message be favourable Sir John's services may repay it.—His obligations to master Writill, and his reliance on his endeavours, &c. - - - 370

L E T T E R XCII.

Sir John Paston, knight, to Master Writill.

10 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Sir John Paston's reliance on master Writill.—The lords of the council's appointment relative to Caister not agreeable to the duke of Norfolk.—Ought to have been so.—The duke of Norfolk's terms not such as sir John approved.—Willing to accept any conditions if his brother's, &c. life be in danger.—Else not to give up the place for a thousand pounds.—Will send the archbishop's instructions, &c.—Promises to befriend master Writill, &c. - 372

L E T T E R XCIII.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

12 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Distress of the besieged at Caister.—Dawbeney and Berney killed.—Many wounded.—The duke of Norfolk more cruel since Writill came.—Guns and people sent for by him to be there by Thursday, for a grand assault.—M. Paston desires hasty succours to be sent by sir John.—If not, then for letters to be gotten from the duke of Clarence, &c. to the duke of Norfolk, proposing terms of accommodation.—Or to the earl of Oxford, to rescue the place, though he should have it for his life, &c. - - - page 382

L E T T E R XCIV.

Sir John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston.

15 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Informs her that Dawbeney and Berney were alive and merry, on Saturday last.—That truce had been taken before Writill departed, till Monday next.—Letters from the lords of Clarence and York would be of no avail.—A rescue very expensive.—Wants money and friends.—Sir John's inclination good.—Meditates a rescue.—Sends to the king at York.—Would rather lose Caister than that any man should be killed.—His reason for not coming.—Money.—Displeased with R. Calle.—Evidences.—To give credence to Robin, &c. 386

L E T T E R XCV.

Sir John Paston, to John Paston, and to none other.

18 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Encourages him to keep possession of Caister.—A scheme to be executed in fourteen, or perhaps in seven days.—If not, then for him to do as he thinks best.—The hand-writing known to him.—The duke's counsel dissatisfied.—No lives to be taken.—The good report of the besieged.—Cautions.—Sir John in comfort.—Advices them to take care of their stuff.—A truce taken, &c. 394

L E T T E R XCVI.

Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston.

Begun 22d, ended 30 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Her accounts concerning Caister were such as she had heard.—Dawbeney dead.—Recommends her son to God.—Advice to him.—Sporle matters.—Livery in Bromholm priory.—Little money to be gotten.—Her own difficulties.—Yielding up of Caister.—Their friends distressed on their account.—To make the most of his livelihood.—Richard Calle wishes to be received into favour.—Advice, &c. - - - page 396

L E T T E R XCVII.

. To sir John Heveningham, Thomas Wingfield, &c.

September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Gives them an account of the lords desire respecting the proceedings at Caister.—No decisive answer till all the lords meet.—Advice to them concerning a truce.—The lords think they might accommodate matters, as the duke is so well disposed.—An answer expected.—The writer's servant to have a safe conduct to John Paston, &c. - - - 404

L E T T E R XCVIII.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Caister yielded.—Refers him to John Chapman for an account of the delivery of Caister.—Praises him and his three fellows.—Their wages.—Reasons for surrendering.—Coming to him.—Desires him to be of good cheer, &c. 410

L E T T E R XCIX.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

5 October, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Desires to know which of his servants he intends to keep.—Their good characters.—Wishes he could keep them himself.—In want of money.—His servants generosity.—Debt due to Dawbeney's executors.—Beckham evidences.—A steward wanted.—Keeps himself disengaged.—Advice as to the queen and Anne Hawte.—Threats of the duke of Norfolk's men, &c. - 412

L E T T E R C.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

December or January, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Informed of an appeal to be lodged against him by the widows of those men who were killed at the siege of Caister.—The reason of it.—Cannot come to London for want of money.—Calais.—Tidings.—Clamour great, money slender.—Will do his best, &c. - - - page 416

L E T T E R CI.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

23 January, 1469-70.—9 E. IV.

Goods delivered.—Bargain to be made with the archbishop of Canterbury, &c. relative to the probate of his father's will, and of sir John Fastolf's goods, &c.—Desires tidings.—No money from sir R. Wingfield.—Cannot make his peace with my lord and lady of Norfolk.—Appeal to be sued out.—Court interrupted, and the book blotted, &c. - - - 420

L E T T E R CII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston, esq.

5 February, 1469-70.—9 E. IV.

The woman come to London to sue her appeal.—An hundred shillings given her.—His enemies strong.—Desires him to advice his brother to be diligent now he has the favour of the lords.—Fastolf's debt to the sheriff.—Five shillings in gold for a sugar-loaf, &c.—Syrup to be sent, &c. - 424

L E T T E R CIII.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight, or to Thomas Stomps.

22 June, 1470.—10 E. IV.

Tells him that he and others are indicted for shooting two men at Caister.—Townshend's opinion that the verdict is void.—Widows to appeal.—Advice concerning his affairs.—The duchess of Norfolk promises to be his friend.—To meet Southwell in London.—Much business upon his hands, &c. 428

L E T-

L E T T E R C I V.

John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight, or to Thomas Stomps.

25 June, 1470.—10 E. IV.

Pamping, &c. indicted of felony.—Sir J. Paston as an accessary.—The widows to appeal.—His grand-mother going to levy a fine.—A fine had been formerly levied.—The copy to be found.—Going to Canterbury.—Thence to London, &c. - - - - - page 434

L E T T E R C V.

Edward IV. to William Swan, gentleman.

7 September, 1470.—10 E. IV.

Informs him that the French and his own traitorous subjects are leagued together, and intend landing in or near Kent.—Commands him to prepare with all his fellowship to go thither to oppose the enemy, &c.—If they should be too strong, then to repair to London, and wait his orders or those of his council, &c. - - - - - 438

L E T T E R C V I.

R. L. to John Paston, esquire.

22 October, 1470.—10 E. IV.

Acquaints him with his conversation with the woman of South Walsingham, who had sued the appeal.—She had been intreated to be the duke of Norfolk's waive for one year, and his widow for another, &c. - - - - - 440

L E T T E R C V I I.

John Paston, to Margarett Paston.

April, between 1470 and 1474.—10 and 14 E. IV.

Intended to have been at Mawteby.—Stays at Norwich to receive his wages.—A proverb.—Lady of Norfolk on her way to Walsingham.—In want of an horse to take with him beyond sea.—Wishes to see his mother at Norwich, &c. - - - - - 444

L E T T E R CVIII.

John de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, to the bailiffs, &c. of Eye.

22 October, 1470.—10 E. IV.

Men waged for the town of Eye, to attend at Lincoln field and Exeter, not paid their wages.—The duke desires that they may be paid directly, &c. p. 448

L E T T E R CIX.

Sir John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esq.

15 November, 1470.—10 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

Sir John directs the attendance upon my lord of Oxford at Norwich, to shew his interest in the county of Norfolk.—To beware of Heydon's subtilty.—The mayor to have a number of men in harness.—Heydon's interest.—Advice concerning the mayor, &c.—Sir William Calthorpe, &c.—Letters sent and received.—William Yelverton must not appear.—Story of a young monk.—Respects to Lord Oxford.—Sir John's illness.—Geer sent.—Caution concerning this letter, &c. - - - - - 450

L E T T E R CX.

The Seneschal of the earl of Oxford, to the Black Knight.

20 July.

Jocosely speaks of his own consequence, that he ought not to write except in Latin.—Complains that Langdon has sent no money.—Commands the Black Knight to write to him for that purpose.—Threatens, &c. - - - 458

ACCOUNT of the PLATES.

FRONTISPIECE TO VOL. IV.

THE Portrait of Edward IV. was copied for this work by Edward IV.
the truly accurate pencil of my friend the Reverend Thomas Kerrich, Fellow of Magdalen College in Cambridge, from an Original Painting in his possession.

The Cap of the King is black, the Jewel on it is gilt and set round apparently with Emeralds, having a Ruby in the centre; his hair is brown; his upper Robe is gilded all over, flowered with black, and edged with thin fur; under this he has black Drapery, crossed upon the breast by four strings of Pearls, from which depend Roses and Trefoils, all gilt and set with precious stones of different colours; his lowest Garment, which appears at his neck, and through the slashes in his sleeves, is red.

The Rose in his right hand, the emblem of his Royal House, is white, having the leaves and stem green; his ring is gold.

The Ground of the Picture is of a dark colour. Both the Board, on which the Picture is painted, and the Frame, are cut out of one piece of oak, having the inner mouldings of the latter gilded; the outer edge and the inscription black.

The size of the Original is one foot and half an inch high, and seven inches and seven eighths of an inch wide.

Edward

Edward IV. was born in 1442 ; became King, on the deposition of Henry VI. in March 1460-1 ; left the Kingdom in 1470, when Henry VI. was restored ; returned in 1471, and again ascended the throne. He died in 1483, *Æt.* 41, and was buried in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, but the exact place of his interment was forgotten, till some workmen, employed in repairing the Chapel, in March 1789, accidentally discovered his tomb.

The Remains of the King were in a leaden coffin soldered, and some liquor was found therein, but it is supposed to have been merely the decomposition of the body, as, on analysis, it gave no embalming or preserving materials.

The vault was only nine feet by four, and the words **Edward IV.** were written on the wall above the coffin in the characters of the age.

No Rings, Spurs, or other Insignia, were discovered, and, from various circumstances, it appeared that the vault had been formerly opened and plundered.

Framling-
ham Castle.

For a description of this Castle, engraved on the Title Page of this volume, see Account of the Plates p. xxxi. Vol. III.

Fac Similes
and Auto-
graphs.

Plates XXIV. and XXV. contain fac simile representations of the hand writing, names, titles &c. of the writers of the Letters contained in this volume.

Paper marks.

Plates XXVI. and XXVII. represent exact delineations of the different paper marks worked into the paper on which the Original Letters are written.

Seals, &c.

Plate XXVIII. exhibits the several Seals still remaining on the Letters, with representations of the fastening slips of paper, and string, or thread, now adhering to the Originals.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

E D W A R D IV.

Vol. IV.

B

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

L E T T E R I I.

*To my right reverent and worshipfull
Iohn Paston Esquier or to my maytres
his Wyf.*

AFTER my most spial recōmendācon lyke yo^r maisterchip wete that the mat^r for you and my maistrez yo^r moder ayens Powtrell and Tanfeld hath ben called uppon as dylygently and as hastely this t^me as it mygth be And al way dayes yeven hem by the co^t to answer and than the^r toke smale excepcons and trifeled forth the Co^t And al wey excused them by cause the bylle is long and his Councell had no leyf^r. to se it And they p^yed heryng of the testame^t. of my maist^r yo^r fader and therof made a noy^t mat^r. and argued it to putte hem fro it be cause they had emp^led to us by fore and than Hyllingworth to dryve it over this t^me allegged varians be twyx the bille and the testame^t that Iohn Damme was named in the testame^t. Ioh Dawme Jn whiche

We have here a most curious account of the difficulties started, and the delays craved, in a suit at law, and we might easily mistake this for a modern Letter from a Solicitor to his Client. It shews us likewise that the difference of manners above three hundred years ago and at present, is not so great as we are too apt to think it.

cas

EDWARD IV.

LETTER I.

*To my right reverend and worshipful John Paston, Esquire, or to
my Mistres his Wife.*

AFTER my most special recommendation, like your master-ship (*to*) weet that the matter for you and my mistres your Mother against Powtrell and Tanfield hath been called upon, as diligently, and as hastily, this term as it might be, and alway days given them by the Court to answer; and then they took small exceptions and trifled forth the court; and alway excused them because the bill is long, and his Counsel had no leisure to see it; and they prayed hearing of the Testament of my master your ¹ Father, and thereof made another matter, and argued it to put them from it, because they had emparled to us (*craved respite of us*) before; and then Hillingworth to drive it over this term, alledged variance betwixt the Bill and the Testament, (*namely*) that John Damme was named in the Testament Joh

¹ Sir William Paston, the Judge, who died in 1444.

cas now the co^t must have sigth of the said testame^t where fore ye must send it up the begynnyng of the next t^me or ell we schall haue no sped in the mat^r And therfor maistres if my maist^r be not cum hom and ye haue not the sayd testame^t. jn yo^r kepyng that than it plesse you to speke un to my maistres yo^r ² moder jn lawe for the seyde testame^t that I mygth redely haue it here and that it be sealed in a box and sent to me and I schall kepe it safe w^t godds g[']ce And as for tytyngs in good feyth we haue non seve the ³ Erle of Wylchir is hed is sette on London brigge. Mayst^r Will^{'m} is reden hom to my maistrs Ponyns and as for maist^r Ponyns hymself sche letteth as thow sche wyft not where he were. A Gentyelman that kam fro York told me my maist^r was heyl and mery and rode to mete the ⁴ Kyng Comyng fro Mydlam castell ⁵ Berwyk is full of Scottys. And we loke be lyklyhod aft^r anoy^r batayll now be twyx Skotts and us. And I p^{'y} Jhu haue you jn his blyffed kepyng.

Yo^r.

Thomas Plapter.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. x. N^o 1.

² Dame Agnes Paston, the widow of the Judge.

³ James Butler, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, was taken at the battle of Towton, fought on Palm Sunday, the 29th of March, 1461, and soon afterwards beheaded. He had been twice Lord High Treasurer.

Dawme, in which case now the Court must have sight of the said Testament, wherefore ye must send it up the beginning of the next Term, or else we shall have no speed in the matter. And therefore Mistress, if my Master be not come home, and ye have not the said Testament in your keeping, that then it please you to speak unto my Mistress your ² Mother-in-law for the said Testament, that I might readily have it here, and that it be sealed in a box and sent to me, and I shall keep it safe with God's grace.

And as for tidings, in good faith we have none, save the Earl of ³ Wiltshire's head is set on London Bridge.

Master William (*Pafton*) is ridden him to my Mistress Poynings, and as for Master Poynings himself, she letteth as though she wist not where he were.

A Gentleman that came from York told me my Master was heyl (*healthy*) and merry, and rode to meet the ⁴ King coming from Middleham Castle.

⁵ Berwick is full of Scots, and we look by likelihood after another battle now betwixt (*the*) Scots and us.

And I pray Jesu have you in his blessed keeping.

Your,

⁶ THOMAS PLAYTERS.

April, 1461.

¹ E. IV.

⁴ This shews that the king was not yet returned out of Yorkshire to London since the battle of Towton.

⁵ Henry VI. and his Queen after the battle escaped to Berwick, and from thence retired to Edinburgh.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 14. For some account of him, see Vol. I. Letter II. p. 225. Note 7.

L E T T E R I I I.

To my right Reverent

w^{or}schippfull mast' my

mastr Iohn Paston.

RIGHT reverent and worfchipfull Mast^r J lowly recomande me unto yo' good mast'schip plesith you to witte y^t I haue ben at Framelyngh'm and spake Ric Sothwell to haue hes advice in this mat^r wherin he wolde geue me but litell Councell and seide ze were st'ungely disposed for ye trusted no man and had moche langage weche the berer herof schal enforme your mast'schip And as for the letters yey were deliu'd my lorde at the logge but I cowde not speke w^t hese lordeschip and fuche tyme as they were delyu'd Fitz Williā whas there weche is now keper of Castre and what tyme as my lorde had sene the lett's he Comaunded hym to avoide and so he did And thaune my lorde sent for Sothwell And in the meene tyme my lorde sent a man to me and axed me where ye were and J tolde hē ye were w^t the kyng and so he sent me worde that an answere schulde be made be Sothwel to the King seyng that ii or iij eyers had ben

In the XXXVIII. Letter of the Third Volume of this Work we have seen that the Duke of Norfolk reported that Sir John Fastolf had given him Caister; we find he has now asserted his claim, and seems to be in possession; and though this Letter contains nothing very curious, yet as it relates to Caister and to the possession of that Estate, it was very proper to give it to the Reader, as it leads to a previous knowledge of circumstances, which a few years after brought on the regular siege of that place, the account of which is both very remarkable and very curious.

It seems by this Letter that the Duke of Norfolk was at this time keeping his secret house at the Lodge, where the Writer of this Letter was not permitted to speak with him.

L E T T E R II.

To my right reverend and worshipful Master, my Master John Paston.

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Master, I lowly recommend me unto your good mastership, pleaseth you to weet that I have been at Framlingham, and spake (*with*) Richard Southwell to have his advice in this matter, wherein he would give me but little counsel, and said ye were strangely disposed, for ye trusted no man; and had much language, which the bearer hereof shall inform your mastership.

And as for the Letters they were delivered my Lord at the Lodge, but I could not speak with his Lordship, and such time as they were delivered Fitzwilliam was there, which is now keeper of Caister, and what time as (*when*) my Lord had seen the Letters, he commanded him to avoid and so he did; and then my Lord sent for Southwell, and in the mean time my Lord sent a man to me and asked me where ye were, and I told him ye were with the king, and so he sent me word that an answer should be made by Southwell to the king, saying that two or three heirs had been with my Lord and shewed their evi-

The order for the establishment of the secret House is given in the Earl of Northumberland's Household Book, where it is said that "at certain times of the year the nobility retired from their principal Mansion to some little adjoining Lodge; where they lived private, no longer kept open house, but put their Servants to Board-wages, dismissed part of them to go to their Friends, and only retained a few of the most necessary about their person."

Edward IV. was crowned on Monday the 29th of June, 1461; and from the mention of his Coronation the exact date of this Letter is ascertained; Corpus Christi day is the Thursday after the Octave of Whitsunday.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9,

dence,

w^t my lorde and shewed her euidence and delyu'd it to my lorde
seyng yey haue had gret wrong besechyng my lorde yat it myght
be reformed Wherfor he comaunded me that J shulde go hom
for other answer cowde I non have so I aboude uppon Sothwel
to a know my lordes answer to the Kyng weche answere Sothwel
tolde me was y^t he writeth to the Kyng that certeine points in
yo^r lett's be untrew and that he schal prove suche tyme as he
Cometh befor the Kyng besechyng the Kyng to take it to no
displefur for he is advised to kepe it still unto the tyme that he
hath spaken w^t his highnesse for he trusteth to God to schewe
suche euidence to the Kyng and to the lords that he schulde haue
best right and titill therto and so he sent a man forthe to y^e Kyng
this Day it were right wele don ye awayted upon hes man
Comyng y^t ye myght knowe the redy entent of my lordes wri-
tyng Berthelmew Elyffe hathe ben w^t my lorde and made a
relesse to my lord and S' Will Chamb'leine was ther ij dayes
afore J come thirder I can thynke for the same mat^r And
Thom's Fastolf whas there y^e same tyme y^t I was yer and as I
am enformed they haue delyu'd my lorde ferteine euidence
Wherfor me semeth it wer right wele don savyng yo^r bett^r ad-
vice to com hem and sele up yo^r euidence and haue hem w^t you
to london to p^ue his titill noght. Ther be but ij or iij men
w^t in the place and if ye thynke it best to do it send word and J
suppose a remedy schal be had also J here no word of mast' Will'
nor of the Writts for the p'lament Also it is tolde here that
Tudenh'm

dence, and delivered it to my Lord, saying they have great wrong, beseeching my Lord that it might be reformed; wherefore he commanded me that I should go home, for other answer could I none have; so I abode (*waited*) upon Southwell to have known my Lord's answer to the King, which answer Southwell told me was, that he writeth to the King that certain points in your Letters be untrue, and that he shall prove (*at*) such time as he cometh before the King, beseeching the King to take it to no displeasure, for he is advised to keep it still unto the time that he hath spoken with his Highness, for he trusteth to God to shew such evidence to the King and to the Lords that he should have best right and title thereto; and so he sent a man forth to the King this day; it were right well done, ye awaited upon his man coming, that ye might know the ready intent of my Lord's writing.

Bartholomew Ellis hath been with my Lord, and made a release to my Lord; and Sir William Chamberlaine was there two days before I came thither, I can think for the same matter; and Thomas Fastolf was there (*at*) the same time that I was there, and as I am informed they have delivered my Lord certain evidence; wherefore me seemeth it were right well done, saving your better advice, to come home and seal up your evidence, and have them with you to London, to prove his title nought. There be but two or three men within the place, and if ye think it best to do it send word, and I suppose a remedy shall be had.

Also, I hear no word of Master William, nor of the Writs for the parliament. Also it is told here that Todenham and Heydon

Tudenh'm and Heydon haue a p'don of the Kyng and that they schal come up to london w^t the lady of Suff. to the Coronacon Also as for the lett^r y^t ye sent to Thom's Wyngfeld I haue it still for he is at london some men sey he meved my lord for to entre and som sey Fitz Williā is in defaute so J can see ther is but fewe goode Also my mast' S' Thom's Howys schol send a lett' to the p'son ye wote of for to deliu' you the gere at london the next weke my right wo'schipfull and reuerent mastre Almyghti God p'serue you Wreten at Norweche on the morwe aft^r Corpus xpi Day.

Yo^r pore f'vūt and bedman,

R. C.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

Seal: an Eagle's Head erased, having
an Escroll issuing from its Mouth.
Motto illegible. Pl. xxiii. N^o 8.

LETTER III.

To my maistr Paston.

RIGHT Wurshipfull and myn especiall good maister I recomaund me to yow w^t all my f'uice besechyng you hertily at the Reu'ence of god to helpe me now in the grettest extremite that I cam at sith my greet trobil w^t Jngh'm It is not oute of yo^r remembraunce how Twyer jn Norff vexith me bothe

have a pardon of the King, and that they shall come up to London with the Lady of Suffolk to the Coronation ; also as for the Letter that ye sent to Thomas Wingfield, I have it still, for he is at London ; some men say he moved my Lord for to enter, and some say Fitzwilliam is in default, so I can see there is but few good. Also my Master Sir Thomas Howys shall send a Letter to the person ye weet of, for to deliver you the geer at London the next week ; my right worshipful and reverend Master, Almighty God preserve you. Written at Norwich, on the morrow after Corpus Christi day.

Your poor Servant and Beadsman,

RICHARD CALLE.

Norwich,

Friday, 5th of June,

1461. 1 E. IV.

L E T T E R III.

To my Master Paston.

RIGHT worshipful and mine especial good Master, I commend me to you with all my service, beseeching you heartily, at the reverence of God, to help me now in the greatest extremity that I came at since my great trouble with Ingham. It is not out of your remembrance how Twyer in Norfolk vexeth

by noife and ferchyng myn ho' for me fo that theer I can not be in quyetē And all that I am verily acerteined is by Heydens Crafft And heer in the Kyngs houle annenft Howard wher I had hopid to a relevid myfelf I am fupplanted and caft oute from hym by a clamor of all his f'uaunts at onys And newer oonly that his difpoficon acordyth not to my pou' Conceyte which maketh me to gif leffe force be caufe I defire not to dele ther bribery is like to be vfid Ellis by my trouth This unhappy unkyndenes wold I trow a killed me I p'y yow at the revēce of Jhu crifte to enfo'me my lord of Warwyk of me p'de I haf do hym f'vice I was w' hym at Northampton that all men knew And now agayn at feynt Albones that knowt Iames Ratcliff And ther loft I xx li, wurth horfe herneys and mony And was hurte in div'fe placs I p'y yow to gete me his good lordfhip and that I may be toward hym in Norff' in his Courts holdyng or ellis if ony thyng he haf to do And that ye wole gete me a letter to Twyer to late me fit in reft For now if I made any felafhip agayn Twyer I can haf no colour now the fhirref and I be oute fo I muft kepe me aparte which I am lothe to do be god if I myght bett' do J befech yow to fend me yo' Intent by the next man that Come from yow I fhuld a come to zow but fo help me

This complaining Letter muft have been written early in the reign of Edward IV. as the writer mentions having been prefent at the battle of Northampton (July, 1460) "and now (*lately*) agayn at Seynt Albones" (February, 1460-1).

He looks up to the Earl of Warwick for relief in his diftrefs, and feems to think himfelf entitled to it for having fought under his banner in favour of the Houfe of York.

The contents are descriptive of the times when it was written, and therefore I have given it.

god

me both by noife and fearching mine houle for me, fo that there I cannot be in quiet, and all that, I am verily afcertained, is by Heydon's craft; and here in the King's houle anenft (*by means of*) Howard, where I had hoped to have relieved myfelf, I am fupplanted and caft out from him by a clamour of all his Servants at once; and ne (*nothing*) were, only that his difpofition accordeth not to my poor conceit, which maketh me to give lefs force, becaufe I defire not to deal there (*where*) bribery is like to be ufed, elfe by my truth this unhappy unkindnefs would, I trow, have killed me. I pray you at the reverence of Jefus Chrift to inform my Lord of Warwick of me; perde (*par Dieu*) I have done him fervice; I was with him at Northampton, that all men know, and now again at St. Alban's, that knoweth James Ratcliffe, and there loft I twenty pounds worth (*of*) horfe, harness, and money, and was hurt in divers places. I pray you to get me his good Lordfhip, and that I may be toward him in Norfolk in his Courts holding, or elfe, if any thing he has to do; and that ye will get me a Letter to Twyer to let me fit in reft, for now if I made any fellowfhip againft Twyer, I can have no colour now the Sheriff and I be out, fo I muft keep me apart, which I am loath to do, by God, if I might better do.

I befeech you to fend me your intent by the next man that come from you; I fhould have come to you, but, fo help me God, my purfe may no farther.

We have in thefe Letters feldom met with any expreffions tending to oaths, in this the writer firft fays perde, meaning par Dieu; an excufable expreffion indeed: but a little farther, he plainly writes "by God."

Autograph. Pl. III. N^o 35. And Pl. xxv. N^o 2.

The

god my purs may no ferther The holy trinite p'serve yow Wre-
tyn hastily at York, &c.

Yo^r to his power,

Denys.

12 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 6.

Seal,

A T surmounted

by a Coronet.

Pl. xxviii. N^o I.

LETTER III.

To my ryght wirchipsel

hosbond Iohn Paston

be y^{is} delyverid in hast.

RYTH worshipfull hosbond I recōmawnd me to yow de-
fyr̄g hertyly to her of yo^r welfar p'ying yow y^t ye woll
send me word in hast how ye be agreid w^t Wychyngh'm and
Inglose for y^t mat^r that ye spake to me of at yo^r dep'tyng for if
j shuld p'vey oy^r wood or hey it shuld be bowgth best chepe be
twixt yis and feynt Margretys messe as itt is told me As for
Applyard he com not yett to this town syn he com from london
I have sent to S^r Bryse to lete me have knowleche when he
comyth to town and he hath p'mysid y^t I shall have knowleche
and when he comyth I shall do yo^r cōmawndemēt My moder
bad me send yow word y^t Waron Herman hath dayly fyshid
hyre water all y^{is} yer and y'for she p'yith yow to do y'for while
ye

The Trinity preserve you. Written hastily at York, &c.

Yours, to his Power,

THOMAS DENYES.

York,
Before July, 1461.
1 Ed. IV.

L E T T E R IV.

*To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this delivered
in haste.*

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you that ye will send me word in haste how ye be agreed with Wychingham and Inglos, for that matter that ye spake to me of at your departing, for if I should purvey either wood or hay it should be bought best cheap betwixt this and Saint Margaret's Mass, (20 July) as it is told me. As for Appleyard he come not yet to this town since he come from London; I have sent to Sir Bryse to let me have knowledge when he cometh to town, and he hath promised that I shall have knowledge, and when he cometh I shall do your commandment. My Mother bad me send you word that Waryn Herman hath daily fished her water all this year, and therefore she prayeth you to do therefore, while
ye

ye be att london as ye thynk best. ¹ Chyrche of Byrlyng'h'm was take and browte to y^e Castell yist'day be y^e beshopys men and all his godys ben seysid for y^t he owyth to y^e boshop And y^e seid Chirche seyth as for y^t he hath seyde of hem y^t he hath appelyd befor y^{is} tyme he woll awow itt and abyde yerby and seyth y^t he woll appele on y^t hath more nobelys than they have all y^t he hath spoke of yett and y^t shall Avayll y^e king more than yey have all y^t he hath speke of yett but what he is he woll not name tyll he know more I trow but if y^t be the grett labo^r made ayens hym he is lyke to have grett favo^r of hem y^t have be his supporters Men thenk y^t have spoke w^t hym y^t he hop^t to have good helpe I p^{'y} god that y^e trewth mote be knowyn I p^{'y} yow y^t ye woll vouchesaff to send me an oyr fugo^r loff for my old is do And also y^t ye well do make a gyrdill for yo^r dowgter for she hath nede y^{'of} The blyssid t^{'nyte} have yow in his kep^{'yng} Wretyn at Norwyche i haft on y^e tewysday next befor seynt Thom's day

² Paper is deynty.

Yours,

³ M. P.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

I think this Letter was written about the beginning of Edward the Fourth's reign; but of that I cannot be certain. It shews Waryn Herman to be a troublesome neighbour to his mother,

¹ Whom Church means to appeal, or for what offence, does not appear, though it seems to be for some misdemeanor for which a fine would accrue to the King.

REC-

ye be at London, as ye think best. ¹ Church of Burlingham was taken and brought to the Castle yesterday, by the Bishop's men, and all his goods be seized for that he oweth to the Bishop; and the said Church saith, as for that he hath said of them that he hath appealed before this time, he will avow it and abide thereby; and saith that he will appeal one that hath more nobles than they have all, that he hath spoken of yet, and shall avail the King more than they have all that he hath spoken of yet, but what he is he will not name till he know more. I trow but if (*unless*) there be the great labour made against him, he is like to have great favour of them that have been his supporters; men think, that have spoken with him, that he hopeth to have good help; I pray God that the truth might be known.

I pray you that ye will vouchsafe to send me another sugar loaf, for my old is done; and also that ye will do make (*have made*) a girdle for your Daughter, for she hath need thereof. The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Norwich, in haste, on the Tuesday next before Saint Thomas's day.

² Paper is dainty.

Yours,

³ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Tuesday, end of June or beginning of July,
about 1461. 1 Ed. IV.

² "Paper is deynty," this, I believe, is the only letter in which a want of paper is complained of. The Letter is written upon a piece nearly square, out of which a quarter had been cut before the letter was written.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

L E T T E R U.

*To my Right noble and
Wurshipfull Mastresse my
Mastresse Paston or to
William Paston if she
be absent.*

RIGHT noble and Wurshipfull Mastresse I recomaund me to yow w^t my pou^r f^rise and for so moche as I here no thyng of my maist^r yo^r husbonds comyng hastily home and though he cam or come not it were expedient that the Kyng were infourmed of the demenyng of the Shire Therefore I send to yow a testymonyall which is made by a greet assent of greet multitude of Comons to send to the Kyng I p^y you for the good spede therof that in all hast possible ye like to send it to my said Maist^r if he be w^t the Kyng Ellis fynde the meane to send it to the Kyng thogh my Maist^r be thens. Beside forthe that ye vouchsaf to late diligent labo^r be made to a sufficient nombir to assele for my Maist^r Paston allone For if bothe holde not I wolde oon helde I p^y yow that it lyke you to send for my Maist^r William Paston and shew hym all thys and that it were hastid for on the Adu^rsaire p^rte Iudas slepith not Berney p^rmised to a sent but for our lords love trust not that for I se his flouthe

This Letter was written in the beginning of July in the year 1461, 1 E. IV. and relates to Election matters.

The multitude of Commons must mean such as possessed freehold lands to the yearly value of 40s. ; for in the eighth and tenth years of the reign of Henry VI. acts of parliaments passed to restrain all those from voting for Knights of the Shire who did not possess that property, &c. See 8 H. VI. c. vii. and 10 H. VI. c. ii.

L E T T E R V.

*To my right noble and worshipful Mistrefs my Mistrefs Paston, or
to William Paston if she be absent.*

RIGHT noble and worshipful mistrefs I recommend me to you with my poor service, and for so much as I hear nothing of my master your husband's coming hastily home, and though he come, or come not, it were expedient that the King were informed of the demeaning of the shire ; therefore I send to you a testimonial which is made by a great assent of great multitude of Commons to send to the King ; I pray you for the good speed thereof, that in all haste possible ye like to send it to my said master, if he be with the King, else find the mean to send it to the King though my master be thence ; beside forth that ye vouchsafe to let diligent labour be made to a sufficient number to assael for my master alone, for if both hold not, I would one held.

I pray you that it like you to send for my master William Paston, and shew him all this, and that it were hasted, for, on the Adversary's part, Judas sleepeth not.

Berney promised to have sent, but for our Lord's love trust not that, for I see his sloth and filly labour, which is no labour, and I would full fain speak with you, &c.

The last sentence is a prettily turned compliment upon his mistrefs Margaret Paston.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 2.

It appears from the following Letters that the writer of this was murdered a very few days after he wrote it, by a party in the interest of the House of Lancaster.

and fely labor which is no labour And I wold ful fayn speke w^t yow, &c. My Maist^r yo^r hufbond wole p^raventure blame us all if this mat^r be not applied for he may not of reson do so largely heryn by his myght be cause he is elyted As the Cemons myght wisely do w^t help of his favo^r if it wer wisely wrought If my Maist^r W Paston ride hastily from a x daies to london J wole w^t hym if he fend me word The holy trinite p^rserve yow Wretyn rudely in hast the funday, &c.

Men sey fend a wiseman on thy erand and sey
litell to hym. Wherfor I write brefly
and litell

Thomas Denpes.

11 $\frac{1}{8}$ by 6.

LETTER III.

*To my Cosyn Margret
Paston.*

I Recomaund me to yow letyng yow wete y^t the undershreve doughtyth hym of John Berney Wherfore I pray yow bryng hem to gedyr and set hem acord if ye can so y^t the seyde onder-shreve be sure y^t he shall not be hurt be hym ner of hys Cuntry men And eyf he woll not lete hym verely understonde y^t he shall be Compellyd to fynd hym fuer^te of the pes to agry in thys heed

My master, your husband, will peradventure blame us all, if this matter be not applied, for he may not of reason do so largely herein by his might, because he is elyted (*elect*ed), as the Commons might wisely do with help of his favour, if it were wisely wrought. If my master William Paston ride hastily from a x dayes (*within ten days*) to London, I will with him, if he send me word. The Holy Trinity preserve you.

Written rudely in haste the Sunday, &c.

Men say, send a wiseman on thy errand and say little to him, wherefore I write briefly and little.

THOMAS DENYES.

Sunday,

July, 1461. 1 E. IV.

L E T T E R VI.

To my Cousin Margaret Paston.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet that the Under Sheriff doubteth him of John Berney, wherefore I pray you bring them together, and set them accord (*through*) if ye can, so that the said Under Sheriff be sure that he shall not be hurt by him nor of his countrymen; and if he will not, let him verily understand, that he shall be compelled to find him surety of the
peace

heed And y^t shall nowther be p^rfitabyll ner worchepful and lete hym wete y^t there have be many Compleynts of hym be y^t knavyfsh Knyght S^r Miles ¹ Stapilton as I sent yow word before but he shall Come to hys excuse wele Jnow so he have a mannys hert and the feyd Stapylton shall ben ondyrstand as he ys a fals shrewe and he and hys wyfe and other have blaveryd here of my kynred in hedermoder but be y^t tyme we have rekned of old dayes and late dayes myn shall be found more worchepfull thanne hys and hys wyfes or ellys J woll not for hys gilt ² gypcer Also telle the feyd Berney y^t y^e Shreve ys in a dought whedyr he shall make a newe elecon of knyghts of the shyre be cause of hym and Grey where in it were bettyr for hym to have the shreves good wyll Jt'm me thynkyth for quiete of the Cuntre it were most worchepfull y^t as wele Berney as Grey shuld get A record of all fuche y^t myght spend xl^s ayere y^t wer at the day of elecon whech of them y^t had fewest to geve it vp as reson wold Wretyn at london on ³ Relyk Sonday.

This Letter is undoubtedly written by John Paston to his wife Margaret Paston, it is therefore difficult to say why he directs to her as to his Cousin; I suppose from the late change of government he was cautious of being known to correspond with any one, lest he should be suspected by either party; and as this Letter was on matters relative to an Election of Knights of the Shire, he might be particularly careful not to have his sentiments known, fearing another change might take place, as the times were so unsettled.

Sir John Howard was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk at this time, though the Under-Sheriff seems to have been the manager in these Election disputes.

J. Paston's advice concerning the Election seems not only judicious, but calculated to promote the peace of the county; a thing at this period much to be desired by the new King.

Jt'm

peace to agree on this head, and that shall neither be profitable nor worshipful; and let him weet that there have been many complaints of him by that knavish Knight Sir Miles ¹ Stapylton, as I sent you word before, but he shall come to his excuse well enough so he have a man's heart, and the said Stapylton shall be understood, as he is a false shrew, and he and his wife and other have blavered (*blabbed or prated*) here of my kindred in hoder moder (*bugger mugger, clandestinely*), but, by that time we have reckoned of old days and late days, mine shall be found more worshipful than his and his wife's, or else I will not for his gilt ² gypcer (*purse*).

Also tell the said Berney that the Sheriff is in a doubt whether he shall make a new election of Knights of the Shire, because of him and Grey, wherein it were better for him to have the Sheriff's good will.

Item, me thinketh for quiet of the Country it were most worshipful, that as well Berney as Grey should get a record of all such that might spend forty Shillings a year, that were at the day of election, which of them that had fewest to give it up as reason would. Written at London, on ³ Relick Sunday.

¹ Sir Miles Stapylton, knight, of Ingham, died in 1466, and was there buried; his first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Simon Felbrigg; his second was Catharine, daughter of Thomas de la Pole, second son to the Earl of Suffolk; she was living in 1464, and was most probably the lady here mentioned.

² This word is used by Chaucer in his Prologues, where describing "The Frankeleyn," he says,

"An Onelace and Gypsere al of fylk,

"Hung at his gyrdle, white as morowe milke."

³ Relick Sunday is the Sunday following the translation of St. Thomas à Becket.

Item,

It'm y^t ye fend abought for fylver acordyng to the old bylle
y^t I sent yow from lynne.

* John Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

something refembling
an Helmet.

Pl. xxvi. N^o 7.

* Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N^o 6.

L E T T E R U I I I.

Margaret Paston to Iohn Paston.

I Recomand me to yow please yow to wete that I haue sent to
my Cosyn Barney Acordyng to yo^r desyr in y^e lett^r y^t ye
deed wright on Relec Sonday to me wherupon he hathe wreten
a lett^r to yow and anothyr bylle to me y^e wyche J send yow he
tolde y^e Masang^r y^t I sent to hym y^t ye vnd^r thereve nedyth not
to fer hym nor non of hys for he seyde aft^r ye Aleccion was doo
he spak w^t hym at y^e grey fryers and p^ryyd hym of hys good
mast^rchep And seyde to hym y^t he feryd no man of bodely
harme but only Twyer and hys felachep It'm S^r Iohn Taterfalle
and y^e baly of Walsynsh'm and y^e cōstabyll hathe take y^e p^rson of
Snoryng and iiij of hys men and fete hem fast in y^e Stokkys on
Monday at nyght and as it is seyde they shuld be carryyd up to
y^e kyng in hast God defend yt but they be shaftysyd as y^e lawe
wolle

Item, that ye send about for Silver according to the old bill that I sent you from Lynn.

4 JOHN PASTON.

London, Sunday,

12 July, 1461.

1 E. IV.

L E T T E R VII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

I Recommend me to you, please you to weet that I have sent to my Cousin Berney, according to your desire in the Letter that ye did write on Relick Sunday to me, whereupon he hath written a letter to you and another bill to me, the which I send you. He told the messenger, that I sent to him, that the Under Sheriff needeth not to fear him nor none of his, for he said, after the Election was done, he spake with him at the Grey Friars, and prayed him of his good mastership, and said to him that he feared no man of bodily harm, but only Twyer and his fellowship.

Item, Sir John Taterfalle, and the Bailiff of Walsingham, and the Constable, hath taken the parson of Snoring and four of his men, and set them fast in the stocks on Monday at night; and as it is said they should be carried up to the King in haste; God defend it but they be chastised as the law will. Twyer and his

Vol. IV.

E

fel'ow-

wolle Twyer and hys felachep beryth a gret wyght of Thom's Denys dethe in y^s contry abowght Walsynh'm and it is seyde ther yf Iohn Osberne hade owght hym as good wyll as he deed befor y^t he was aqueytyd w^t Twyer he shuld not adyyd for he myght rewlyd al Walsynh'm as he had lyst as it ys seyde. It'm Will lynys y^t was w^t Mast^r Fastolf and swyche other as he is w^t hym goo fast abowght in y^e Contr and ber men a hand prests and others they be Skotts and take brybys of hem and let hem goo ageyn he toke the last wek y^e p'son of Freton and but for my Cofyn Iarnyngh'm y^e yonger ther wold a led hem forthe w^t hem And he told hem plely yf they mad any suche doyns ther but they had y^e lett^r to schewe for hem they shuld aley on her bodyys it wer welle do y^t they wer metw^t be tymys it is told me y^t y^e seyde will reportyth of yow as shamfully as he can in dyu's place Jhu have yow in hys kepyng Wreten in hast y^e Wednyfday aft Relec sonday.

yf y^e vnd^rthereve Come home

J woll a fay to do for hym as ye desyryd me in yo^r lett^r As for mony I have sent abowght and I can get non but xiiij^s iiij^d syn ye went owght J wolle do my p^rte to get mor as hastely as ye may.

By yo^r,

M. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

This is an answer to the preceding Letter, and is plainly written by Margaret Paston to her Husband John Paston, though it has no direction; it informs him what she had done towards executing his commands, and gives him further information.

LEC

ship beareth a great weight of Thomas Denys' death in the Country about Walsingham, and it is said there, if John Osbern had ought him as good will, as he did before that he was acquainted with Twyer, he should not have died, for he might (*have*) ruled all Walsingham, as he had list, as it is said.

Item, William Lynys that was with Master Fastolf, and such other, as he is, with him, go fast about in the Country and bear men a hand priests and other, they be Scots, and take bribes of them and let them go again. He took the last week the parson of Fritton, and but for my Cousin Jarnyngham the younger, they would have led him forth with them, and he told them plainly if they made any such doings there, but (*unless*) they had the Letter to shew for them, they should have aley on their bodies (*be beaten*); it were well done that they were met with him by times. It is told me that the said William reporteth of you as shamefully as he can in divers places. Jesu have you in his keeping. Written in haste, the Wednesday after Relick Sunday.

If the Under Sheriff come home I will assay to do for him as ye desired me in your Letter; as for money, I have sent about, and can get none but 13s. 4d. since ye went out; I will do my part to get more as hastily as I may.

By your,

MARGARET PASTON.

Wednesday,

15th July, 1461.

1 E. IV.

Richard Cheyne was parson of Little Snoring at this time, and John Fowler of Great Snoring.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

L E T T E R U I I I I.

*To the Ryght Worshipfull
John Paston Squyer in hast.*

SIR I recomaund me to zow &c. And as for my playn dysposyffyon towards the undyrshrewe I wyll hym no bodyli hurt nor shal not be hurt by me nor by noo man that J may Rewle but the Comynnes throw all the Schyer be movyd agayn hym for cause of his lyght demeanyng towards them for this Elexfyon of knygtts of the Shyer for y^e p^rlement And J suppose yf that he wyll he may be hastyli Easfyd as thus lat hym make notys unto the seyde Comynnes that this they^r Eleccyon shall stande or Ellys lat hym purchas a new wryt and lat hym make wrytyng unto them what day they shall Come and they to make a new Eleccyon acordyng vnto the law. And Sir I pray zow sey to hym that it is nott his Oneste to lye upon too many men noysyng them Rebyliones of Norff and B. theyr C No more to zow at this tyme but I haff sent zow ij letteris wⁱn this viij dayes. Wretyn the xvij day of July A^o R R Eiiij^{ti} 1^{mo}.

John Berney.

12 by 3 4.

This is the Letter mentioned by Margaret Paston in the preceding one to her Husband, and explains the behaviour of the Under Sheriff, who appears to have been in an opposite interest to Berney, and in the party of the lately dethroned King Henry. The other Letter sent by Berney is N^o VI. in the First Volume, dated the 10th of July, 1461.

L E T

L E T T E R VIII.

To the right worshipful John Paston, Esquire, in haste.

SIR, I recommend me to you, &c. and as for my plain disposition towards the Under Sheriff, I will him no bodily hurt, nor (*be*) shall not be hurt by me, nor by no man that I may rule; but the Commons through all the Shire be moved against him, for cause of his light demeaning towards them for this Election of Knights of the Shire for the Parliament; and I suppose if that he will, he may be hastily eased as thus, let him make notice unto the said Commons, that this their Election shall stand, or else let him purchase a new Writ, and let him make writing unto them what day they shall come, and they to make a new Election according unto the law; and, Sir, I pray you say to him, that it is not his honesty to lie upon so many men, noising them Rebyliones (*Rebels*) of Norfolk, and B. (*Berney*) their Captain. No more to you at this time, but I have sent you two Letters within this eight days. Written the 17th day of July, in the 1st year of the reign of Edward IV.

JOHN BERNEY.

Friday,

17th of July, 1461.

1 E. IV.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 15.

The impression on the Seal is defaced, but it has a braid of twine fastened to it, and still adhering to the wax.

L E T-

L E T T E R III.

To my Worchepful hosbonde

Ion Pastū y^s lett^r be delyu^r

in hast.

RYTH Worchepful husbond I Recomawnd me to yow
 plesyt yow to wete y^t I am desyrid be S^r Joh Tat^rsale to
 wryte to yow for a Comysfion or a noyr in t^myn^r for to be sent
 down in to y^s cūtre to sit uppō y^e p^rson of snoryng and on soche
 as was Cause of Thom's Denysfys dethe and for many and gret
 horebyl robryys and as for y^e costs y^r of y^e cuntre wele pay y^r-
 for for y^ey be for aferd but y^e feyd dethe be chaftyfyd and y^e feyd
 robryys y^ey ar aferde yt mo folks xal be f^ruyd in lyke wyse as
 for y^e prest and vj of hese mē y^t be takyn yey be delyu^r yt to
 Twer and iiij b^r w^t hē of y^e cūtreys Cost for to be sent w^t to y^e
 Kyng and yf y^ey be browt vp at y^e reverēs of god do yowr p^rte
 y^t y^ey schape not but y^t y^ey may haue y^e Jugemēt of y^e lawe
 and as y^ey haue def^ruyd and be Comytyt to p^rson not to dep^rte
 tyl y^ey be inquiryd of her forseyd robbery be soche a comysfion
 y^t ye cā get y^t y^e Keng and y^e lords may hondyrstōde wat rewle
 y^ey haue be of not hondely for y^e mod^rrys and y^e robbryys but
 as wele for y^e gret insurrexfin y^t y^ey wer lyke amade w^rin y^e
 shyre y^e preefts of Castyr y^ey be streytely take hede at be Roberd

This and some of the foregoing Letters, are very curious, as they afford a striking picture of the times, and display the misfortunes ever attendant on the people at large, when so violent a convulsion happens in the government of a Kingdom.

Har-

L E T T E R IX.

*To my worshipful Husband John Paston, this Letter be
delivered in haste.*

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that I am desired by Sir John Tattersalle to write to you for a commission, or an Oyer and Terminer, for to be sent down into this country to sit upon the Parson of Snoring, and on such as was cause of Thomas Denys' death, and for many and great horrible Robberies; and as for the costs thereof the country will pay therefore, for they be sore afraid but (*unless*) the said death be chastised, and the said Robberies, they are afraid that more folks shall be served in like wise. As for the Priest and six of his men that be taken, they be delivered to Twyer, and four be with them of the Country's cost, for to be sent with to the King; and if they be brought up at the reverence of God, do your part that they escape not, but that they may have the judgment of the law, and as they have deserved, and be committed to Prison, not to depart till they be enquired of their foresaid robbery by such a commission that ye can get, that the King and the Lords may understand what rule they have been of, not only for the Murders and the Robberies, but as well for the great insurrection that they were like a made (*to have made*) within the Shire. The Priests of Caister they be straitly

Murders, Robberies, and acts of extortion cannot then be prevented even in times that boast of refinement in laws, manners, and arts; in the ferocious period here reviewed, they must have been proportionably terrible.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25. Seal, a Fleur de Lys. Pl. xxiii. N^o 7.

take

Harmerer and hodyr so y^t y^e seyde p^tys may haue no th̄g out of
y^r owne ne of hodyr menys but y^e be rassakyt and y^e plase ys
watchyd bothe day and nyth y^e p^tys thynk ryth longe tyl they
tydynggs fro yow at y^e reuerēs of god be ware hou ye goo
and ryde for y^t ys told me y^t ye thret of hē y^t be nowty fela-
wys y^t hathe be inclyn̄g to thē y^t hathe be your hold adu^rfarys
The blyffyd trenyte haue yow in hys kepyng Wrety in hast y^e
Sat^rday nex be fore sēt Margarete.

Be yours,

M. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

L E T T E R X.

*To the right wurcheppfull Sr
and my goode mayst^r my mayst^r
Iohn Paston be this deli^vred.*

REURENT and right wurcheppfull Sr and my gode mayst^r
I recomaund me to you p^yng you to wete that ther is
reyfed a flandrows noyse in this Countre up on my mayst^r Yel-
v^rton and you and my mayst^r Alyngton Which I suppose is do to
bryng you ought of the Conceyte of the pepyll For at this day
ye stand gretly in the Countreys Conceyte It is seyde be Heydon
and his disciples that my mayst^r Yelv^rton and ye and my mayst^r
Alyngton

take heed at by Robert Harmerer and other, so that the said Priests may have nothing out of their own nor of other mens, but they be ranfacked, and the place is watched both by day and night; the Priests think right long till they (*have*) tidings from you. At the reverence of God beware how ye go and ride, for it is told me that ye be threatened of them that be naughty fellows, that hath been inclining to them, that hath been your old Adversaries.

The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written in haste, the Saturday next before Saint Margaret.

By your,

MARGARET PASTON.

Saturday,
18th of July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

L E T T E R X.

To the right worshipful Sir, and my good Master, my Master John Paston, be this delivered.

REVEREND and right worshipful Sir, and my good Master, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that there is raised a slanderous noise in this Country upon my Master Yelverton, and you, and my Master Alyngton, which I suppose is done to bring you out of the conceit of the people, for at this day ye stand greatly in the country's conceit.

It is said by Heydon and his Disciples that my Master Yelverton, and ye, and my Master Alyngton, should have do (*made*).

Alyngton shuld haue do oon Sr John Tartyffale p'son of the Est-churche of ¹ Warham and Chapeleyn to the ² p'or of Walsyngh'm to put in to the p'lemēt a bille of diu's Trefons don be my ³ lord of Norwich Sr Thomas Tudenh'm and John Heydon And ye shuld have set to yo'r Seales And if that Heydon had be vj howrs fro the p'lement lenger than he was ther had be g'anted an oyer det'myner to have enquer of hem &c. This was told yest'day in right wurchepful Audience and a mong the Thrifties men of this Countre And thei seyde right shrewedly For my lord of Norwich hath so flattered the lay pepill as he hath redyn a bought his visitacon that he hath thers herts Wherfor and it please you to lete me have knowlech what ye wuld I shuld sey to it wher as I her any such langage I wull do my p'te and have do hed toward as I have thought in my Conceytes best &c. And if ther be any other fr'vyce that ye wull comaund me I am and wull be redy at yowr Comaundment w't the grace of god How eu'r have you in his blyssed kepyng Wretyn at Wighton in hast on Sent James Day.

Be yo'r fr'vute,

+ James Clops.

9 by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

An Anchor.

Pl. xxii. N^o 12.

This Letter appears to have been written in 1461, as it insinuates a suspicion of treason against Sir Thomas Todenham, &c. who was a faithful Lancastrian, and suffered on the block, for corresponding with the late Queen, in the February following the date of this Letter.

¹ There were three Churches in the parish of Warham.

² Thomas Hunt was admitted Prior in 1437.

one Sir Thomas Tartyffale, Parson of the East Church of ¹ Warham, and Chaplain to the ² Prior of Walsingham, to put into the Parliament a Bill of divers Treasons done by my ³ Lord of Norwich, Sir Thomas Todenham, and John Heydon, and (*that*) ye should have set (*there*) to your Seals; and if that Heydon had been six hours from the Parliament longer than he was, there had been granted an Oyer Determiner to have enquired of them, &c. This was told yesterday in right worshipful audience, and among the thriftiest men of this Country; and they said right shrewdly, for my Lord of Norwich hath so flattered the Lay people as he hath ridden about his Visitation, that he hath their hearts; wherefore and (*if*) it please you to let me have knowledge what ye would I should say to it, whereas (*that*) I hear any such language, I will do my part, and have done hitherward as I have thought in my conceit best, &c. and if there be any other service that ye will command me, I am and will be ready at your commandment with the grace of God, who ever have you in his blessed keeping. Written at Wighton in haste, on Saint James's Day.

By your Servant,

⁴ JAMES GLOYE.

Wighton,

Saturday, 25 July, 1461.

¹ E. IV.

² Walter Lyhert was declared Bishop of Norwich by papal provision in 1446. He was a man of singular wisdom, and, being of a peaceable disposition, was much beloved by the Citizens.

In 1449 he entertained King Henry VI. at his Palace in Norwich, and being a man of great political abilities was sent in the same year Ambassador into Savoy.

He died on Whitsunday, 24th of May 1472, and was buried directly before the Rood Loft in his own Cathedral.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 16. He was a Priest.

L E T T E R XJ.

*To my Wurschipfull Coyssyn
Margaret Paston be this
delyvrd in haste.*

I Recomaunde me unto you letyng you witte that yo^r Unkyll
Iohn Berney is deed whoos soule god haue m^{cy} desyryng
you to fende for Thom's Holler and enquere of hym wher his
goode is and what he is wurthe and that he take goode eede to
all fuche goods as he had bothe meveable and on mevable for I
undre stande that he is wurthe in money V^c marke and in plate
to the valwe of other V^c marke beside other goods Wherfor I
wolde ye schulde not lete hym wete of his disseise unto the tyme
that ye had enquired of the seide Thom's Holler of all fuche
matters as be a bovyn wreten And whan he hathe enformed you
therof than lete hym wete verely that he is deede desyryng hym
that no man come on to his place at Redh'm but hym selfe unto
the tyme that I come It'm I lete you witte that gret p'te of
his goode is at Will'm Tav'ners as I undrestande Thom's Holler
woll telle you Justely the trouthe as I suppose and deseyre hym
on my behalfe that he doo soo and ther is writyng therof and

This Letter is not the only one from John Paston, to his wife, which is directed to his Cousin Margaret Paston.

He had therefore, I suppose, at this time some particular reasons for concealing his correspondence; it might be either for some public reason on the late change of government, or for some private reason on his own affairs.

John Berney was the second son of John Berney, Esq. of Reedham, and inherited from his father estates in Witchingham; he was uncle to Margaret Paston, and died in July, 1461.

telle

L E T T E R XI.

*To my worshipful Cousin Margaret Paston, be this delivered
in haste.*

I Recommend me unto you, letting you weet that your Uncle John Berney is dead, (*on*) whose soul God have mercy, desiring you to send for Thomas Holler and enquire of him where his good is, and what he is worth, and that he take good heed to all such goods as he had both moveable and unmoveable, for I understand that he is worth in money five hundred marks (333^l. 6s. 8d.) and in plate to the value of other five hundred marks, besides other goods; wherefore I would ye should not let him weet of his decease unto the time that ye had enquired of the said Thomas Holler of all such matters as be above written, and when he hath informed you thereof, then let him weet verily that he is dead, desiring him that no man come unto his place at Reedham but himself, unto the time that I come.

Item, I let you weet that great part of his good is at William Taverner's as I understand. Thomas Holler will tell you justly the truth as I suppose, and desire him on my behalf that he do so, and there is writing thereof; and tell Thomas Holler that

His worth in money and plate was considerable for that age, and the caution which was taken in those unsettled times to conceal property, is worthy observation.

As Thomas Holler was become, by the decease of John Berney, the only person who had knowledge of some of his property, the desire which he expresses that his wife should first get information, and then acquaint him with his friend's death, seems to insinuate doubts of his honesty respecting the goods, &c. The hint too that he has a written account of them, implies the same suspicion.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. No 5.

I and

telle Thom's Holler that I and he be executo's named And
therfore lete hym take heede that the goods be kept safte And
that nobody knowe wher it shall lie but ye and Thom's Holler
And Thom's Holler as yo^r Unkyll tolde me is prevy wher all
his goode lithe and all his writyng And so I wol that ye be
prevy to the same for casualte of deethe and ye too shal be his
executo's for me as longe as ye doo trewly as I trowe verely ye
woll Wreten at london the xxviiij^t day of Jule.

J requer yow be of god
cumfort and be not heuy if
ye wil do owth for me

Yowr

John Paston.

12 by 6.

Paper Mark,

A Coronet.

Pl. xxvi. N^o 2.

LETTER XIII.

*To my W^rshipful and right
gode mayster Iohn Paston
Squyer.*

WURSHIPFUL S^re and my right gode mayster I re-
comaunde me to zou and h^tely I thanke zour gode
mayst^rship that ze liked to sende my mayst^r zour Sone to Spore
w^t fuych felaship as ze dede for which I am ev^r bounde to doo
zou f^rvice p'yeng zou of zour gode contenuaunce S^re the cause
why

I and he be executors named, and therefore let him take heed that the goods be kept safe, and that no body know where it shall lie but ye and Thomas Holler; and Thomas Holler, as your Uncle told me, is privy where all his good lieth and all his writings, and so I will that ye be privy to the same for casualty of death, and ye two shall be his executors for me as long as ye do truly, as I trow verily ye will. Written at London the 28th day of July.

I require you be of good comfort and be not heavy, if ye will do ought for me.

Your,

JOHN PASTON.

London,

Tuesday, 28 July, 1461.

1 E. IV.

L E T T E R XII.

To my worshipful and right good Master John Paston, Esq.

WORSHIPFUL Sir and my right good Master, I commend me to you, and heartily I thank your good mastership that ye liked to fend my Master your Son to Spore with such fellowship as ye did, for which I am ever bound to do you service, praying you of your good continuance.

Sir,

why J kam no^t was this I was falle seek w^t an ¹ axez and truly that caused me that J and my felaship taryed and so be cause ther-offe I caused my lady to Wryte a specyall l're to my lord Scales but for al that Blake hath hoom the corn in my lady of Suff' name And the cause why I sent no wurd of my seknes was that I wuld no^t myn enmy shuld be reioysed be the knowlych of my seknesse so god help me the felaship that was redy to goo was right sory that thei myght not goo furth^r w^t me And my ² lordes and my ladyes wyl was that thei shuld have goon furth^r but if I had been heil and no^t seek there shuld have kome a wshipful felaship out of Suff' of so litel Warnyng but truly I lay seek at Jpewych of the the Axcez bothe Sunday and Monday but f'e fyn ze have shewed me so kyndely zour gode maysterfhip I p'ye zou I may have your felaship redy at a nothir tyme to helpe to execute a cōmyffion touchyng Blake and that thei may be redy w'inne ij dayez after ze have Warnyng and f'e my f'vice is redy to zou at alle tymys as ze shewe me gret cause to doo zou f'vice Wreten at Thelton the Wednyfday next before seynt Bertilmew day in haste.

Your f'vūt,

³ Will'm Jenney.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

We have here an instance of the tumultuous and desperate manner in which Distresses were made; in this case, Corn seems to have been the object. It appears that another entry of the same kind was intended. It is not said which of his Sons J. Paston had sent.

¹ An Axes, or Access, from the French word Acces, means the fit or paroxysm of a disease, and in this place most probably may be considered as an Ague fit.

² I suppose these mean the Duke and Duchefs of Norfolk.

LET.

Sir, the cause why I came not was this, I was fallen sick with an ¹ axes (*access*), and truly that caused me that I and my fellowship tarried, and so because thereof I caused my Lady to write a special Letter to my Lord Scales, but for all that Blake hath home the Corn in my Lady of Suffolk's name; and the cause why I sent no word of my sickness was, that I would not mine enemy should be rejoiced by the knowledge of my sickness, so God help me; the fellowship that was ready to go was right sorry that they might not go farther with me, and my ² Lord's and my Lady's will was that they should have gone farther; but if I had been hele (*well*) and not sick there should have come a worshipful fellowship out of Suffolk of so little warning, but truly I lay sick at Ipswich of the Access both Sunday and Monday; but, Sir, since ye have shewed me so kindly your good mastership, I pray you I may have your fellowship ready at another time to help to execute a Commission touching Blake, and that they may be ready within two days after ye have warning, and, Sir, my service is ready to you at all times, as ye shew me great cause to do you service.

Written at Thelveton, the Wednesday next before Saint Bartholomew's day (*24th of August*) in haste.

Your Servant,

³ WILLIAM JENNEY.

Thelveton,
Wednesday, August,
1461, or 1462.
1 or 2 E. IV.

³ William Jenney, of Knotishall, in Suffolk, was an eminent Lawyer, and in 1477 was made a Judge of the King's Bench; he died in 1483, aged above sixty years. Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 10.

I believe this Letter was written in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV.

On the back is written, in an ancient hand.

"A friendly l're of W. Jenney who after became a mortal enemye."

L E T T E R ¶ III.

*To my right w^rshypfull and
 rev^rent Maistyr Iohn
 Paston at Norwich*

RYGH^t w^rshypfull S^r and my right hono^rable maist^r I re-
 comaunde me louly to you And plese youre maist^rshyp
 to wete that my maist^r Clement yo^re Brothyr and Plater wrot
 a letter to my mayst^r yore Sone yistirday the tenure of whych
 was how ye were entretyd there and as ye desyred me so I en-
 formyd hem the mater along for they wist not of it til I told
 hem and they wrote the more pleynerly inasmych as a w^rshyp-
 full man rood the same day and bare the letter to my feyd
 maist^r youre sone the lord Bourgcher is w^t the Kynge and my
 lord Warwyk still in the North, &c. It'm S^r thys day cam on
 Iohn Waynflet from the Kyng streyt weye and he is of myn
 aqueyntaunce and he teld me there was no voyse nor spekyng
 aboute the Kyng of that mater. And I teld hym all the mater
 along hou ye were intretyd whych he wyll put in remēbraunce
 in any place that he cometh in in Suff. or Essex as he goth hom-
 ward. For he owyth no good wil to yo^re adv^rsary. And the
 feyd Waynflet teld me that he knowyth for f^rteyn that the
 Kyng cometh not to Northefolk til he hathe been upon the
 m^rrchys.

This Letter was written whilst the Earl of Warwick was in the North Marches, endeavouring to manage matters with regard to the Scots. He went thither soon after the coronation, and before the King had called a Parliament. What the matter was in which J. Paston had been so strangely treated does not appear.

The account of his son is curious, and shews us that in that remote age money was in a certain degree as necessary as it would be now, for the bringing a young gentleman properly

L E T T E R XIII.

*To my right worshipful and reverend Master John Paston, at
Norwich.*

RIGHT worshipful and my right honourable Master, I commend me lowly to you, and please your mastership to weet that my Master Clement your brother and Playters wrote a Letter to my master your son yesterday, the tenor of which was how ye were entreated there, and as ye desired me, so I informed them the matter along, for they wist (*knew*) not of it till I told them, and they wrote the more plainerly (*plainly*), in as much as a worshipful man rode the same day, and bare the letter to my said master your son.

The Lord Bouchier is with the King, and my Lord Warwick still in the North, &c.

Item, Sir this day came one John Waynfleet from the King strait way, and he is of mine acquaintance; and he told me there was no voice nor speaking about the King of that matter, and I told him all the matter along how ye were entreated, which he will put in remembrance in any place that he cometh in in Suffolk or Essex as he goeth homewards, for he oweth no goodwill to your adversary. And the said Waynfleet told me that he knoweth for certain the King cometh not into Norfolk till

properly forward amongst his equals. It appears from several of these Letters that J. Paston kept his children rather too strait for a man of his birth and fortune.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 18.

The impression on the seal is a Cross flory. Pl. xiv. N° 21.

William Viscount Bouchier, &c. son of Henry Earl of Essex, who married Elizabeth, sister of Richard Plantagenet Duke of York, by which marriage he became Uncle to Edward IV.

m'rchys of Walys and so there is no f'teynte of hyfe comyng thys many dayez he teld me he lefte the Kyng w^t a smal felashyp aboute hym And I enqueryd hym of the gyding of my maystyr yore Sone whiche he comendyd gretly and seyde that he stood well inconfeyt and dayly shuld increse and he was well in aqueyntaunce and be lovdyd w^t lenthilmen aboute the Kyng, but he seyde there shal no thyng hurte hym but yo're streytneffe of mony to hym for w^toute he have mony in hyfe p'se so as he may resonably spende among hem ellys they wyll not sette by hem and there be lenthilmen Sones of lesse reputacion that hath mony more lyb'al X tymeze than he hath and soo in that they seyde Waynflet seyde it were full necessary for you to remembre &c. As for tydyngs here bee noon newe &c. J truste I shal brynge you a lette^r from my mayst^r yo're Sone or thanne I come for whych I shal rather thanne fayle abyde on day the lenger And Ihu haue you my right hono^rable maistr in hyfe m'cyfull gov^rnaunce and p'f've you from adv'syte wretyn at london on seynt Bertylmewys evyn

I can speke w^t noo man but that thynke the gydyng of yo're adv'sary hath been in many causez ryght straunce and as it is sopusyd that he shal undyrstonde at the p'lament but for gods sake haue men Jnow aboute yow for ye undyrstonde is on man'ly dysposicion.

Your bedeman and f'vaunt;

John Russe.

¶ E ¶

he hath been upon the Marches of Wales, and so there is no certainty of his coming this many days; he told me he left the King with a small fellowship about him.

And I enquired (*of*) him of the guiding of my master your son, which he commended greatly, and said that he stood well in conceit, and daily should increase; and he was well in acquaintance, and beloved with gentlemen about the King; but he said there shall nothing hurt him, but your straitness of money to him, for without he have money in his purse, so as he may reasonably spend among them, else they will not set by him; and there be Gentlemen's Sons of less reputation, that hath money more liberal ten times than he hath; and so in that the said Waynfleet said it were full necessary for you to remember, &c.

As for tidings here be none new, &c. I trust I shall bring you a letter from my Master your son, or than (*when*) I come, for which I shall rather than fail abide one day the longer; and Jesu have you, my right honourable Master, in his merciful governance, and preserve you from adversity. Written at London on Saint Bartholomew's even.

I can speak with no man but that think the guiding of your adversary hath been in many causes right strange, and as it is supposed, that he shall understand at the Parliament, but for God's sake have men enough about you, for ye understand his unmannerly disposition.

Your beadsman and servant,

JOHN RUSSE.

London, Sunday,
23 August, 1461.
1 E. IV.

LE T.

LETTER III.

*To my rythg revrent and worchypfoll
Fader Iohn Paston esquier dwellyng
jn Heylysdon be thys letter delyueryd
jn haste.*

MOST revrent and worschepful Fadyr I rekomawnd me hertyly and submytt me lowlely to your good Fad^rhood besechyng yow for cheryte of yowr dayly blyfflyng I beseche yow to hold me ascewfyd that I sente to yowe none erste' no wrythgtyng for I kowd not spede to myn Intent the maters that ye sent to me for I haue laboryd dayly my lord of ^r Effexe treferer of ynglond to haue meuyd the Kyng bothe of the maner Deddh'm And of the byll cotype of the corte rolle eu'ye mornyng ore he went to the Kyng and often tymys jnq'eryd of hym And he had meuyd the Kyng in these maty's he answeyrd me naye feyyng it was no tyme and seyde he wold it war offe fayne spedd os I myselfe offed tymys de layding me that jn trouthe I thowt to haue send yowe word that I felyd by hym that he was not wylllyng to meue the Kyng ther in nev'the lesse I lawberyd to hym contynually and prayed Barronnars hys man to remembyr hym of it I told offten tymys to my seyde Lord that J had a man

This is a most curious Letter, and exhibits an undisguised picture of great men in the fifteenth century.

J. Paston shews himself a persevering advocate, and my Lord of Essex a true courtier. He at last mentions the business to the King, and informs J. Paston of the King's conversation on the subject, which certainly redounds much to his Majesty's honour. The hint from Berners, my Lord Treasurer's man, is cleverly introduced, and the manner of making the compliment to the Earl of Essex is ingeniously contrived; and shews Berners to be one who understood his business well.

teryyn

L E T T E R XIV.

*To my right reverend and worshipful Father John Paston, Esquire,
dwelling in Helleston, be this Letter delivered in haste.*

MOST reverend and worshipful Father, I recommend me heartily, and submit me lowly to your good fatherhood, beseeching you for charity of your daily blessing; I beseech you to hold me excused that I sent to you none erst (*no earlier*) no writing, for I could not speed to mine intent, that ye sent to me for. I have laboured daily my Lord of ¹ Essex Treasurer of England, to have moved the King, both of the Manor (*of*) Dedham, and of the Bill, copied of the Court Roll, every morning afore he went to the King, and often times enquired of him, and (*if*) he had moved the King in these matters; he answered me nay, saying it was no time, and said he would it were as fain sped as I myself; so oft times delaying me that in truth I thought to have sent you word, that I feeld by him that he was not willing to move the King therein; nevertheless I laboured to him continually, and prayed Baronners (*Berners*) his man to remember him of it. I told often times to my said Lord that I

He was most probably a relation of the Earl's family, as his brother John Bouchier married Margery a daughter of Sir Thomas Berners of West Horfeley, in Surry.

¹ Henry Viscount Bouchier, Lord Treasurer of England, was created Earl of Essex in 1461, in the first year of the reign of Edward IV. He was a man of great knowledge and application to business, and at different times filled most of the great offices of state. His death happened in 1483. He was uncle to the King by his marriage with a sister of Richard Platagenet, Duke of York, the King's father.

had

teryyn jn town that I schuld a sente to yow for othyr Sundry
 maters and he teryid for no thyng but that J mythg send yowe
 by hym an answer of the seyde matys othyr tymes besechyng hym
 to spede me in theys matys for thys cawse that ye schuld thynke
 no defawte jn me for remembyng jn the seyde maters And nowe
 of late (I rememb'ng hym of the same mat^r) jnq'ryd if he had
 mevyd the Kyngs Hythgnes ther in And he answeyrd me y^t
 he hadde felte and meuyd the Kyng ther in reherfng the Kyngys
 Answer yⁿ how y^t when he had mevyd the Kyng in the seyde
 man^r of Dedh'm besechyng hym to be yowr good lord ther in
 konfyderyng the feryse and trewe part that ye haue done and
 owthg to hym and jn esepfyal the Rygth that ye have thert o
 he seyde he wold be your good lord therin As he wold be to the
 poreft man jn jnglond he wold hold w^t yowe jn yowr Rygth
 and as for favor he wyll nogth be under stand y^t. he schal
 schewe favor mor to one man then to anothyr nowgth to on jn
 Inglond And as for the bille copyd of the cort Rolle when he
 mevyd to hym of it he smylyd and seyde y^t Suche a bylle ther
 was feyyng y^t ye wold an opp'fpyd Sundroys of yowr Contremen
 of worchypfull men and the for he kepyd it styll neu^r the lesse he
 seyde he schuld loke it uppe jn haste and he schuld haue it
 Baronnys undertoke to me twyes ore thryes y^t he sculd So a
 remembr'd hys lord and mast^r y^t J schuld au had it w^t inne ij or
 iij dayes he is often tymes absent and therfor I haue it nowthg
 yyt when I kan gete it I schall send it yowe And of the Kyngs
 mowth hys name y^t take it hym. I scend you home Pekok a
 geyn he is nor for me god send grace y^t he may do yow good

had a man tarrying in town, that I should have sent to you for other fundry matters, and he tarryed for nothing, but that I might send you by him an answer of the said matters; other times beseeching him to speed me in those matters for this cause, that ye should think no default in me for remembering in the said matters.

And now of late, I remembering him of the same matter, inquired if he had moved the King's Highness therein, and he answered me, that he had felt and moved the King therein, rehearsing the King's answer therein, how that when he had moved the King in the said manor of Dedham, beseeching him to be your good Lord therein, considering the service and true heart that ye have done, and owe to him, and in especial the right that ye have thereto; he said, he would be your good Lord therein, as he would be to the poorest man in England, he would hold with you in your right, and as for favour he will not be understood, that he shall shew favour more to one man than to another, not to one in England.

And as for the Bill, copied of the court roll, when he moved to him of it, he smiled, and said, that such a bill there was, saying that ye would have oppressed fundry of your countrymen of worshipful men; and therefore he kept it still, nevertheless he said he should look it up in haste, and ye should have it.

Baronners undertook to me twice or thrice, that he should so have remembered his Lord and Master, that I should have had it within two or three days; he is often times absent, and therefore I have it not yet, when I can get it, I shall send it you, and of the King's mouth, his name that take it him.

I send you home Peacock again, he is not for me, God send

fervyse (that be extymacion js not lykelye) ye schall haue knowleche aftyrward how he hathe demenyd hym her w^t me I wold favyng yowr dyplefure that ye were delyv'd of hym for he schalle neu^r do yow profyte ner worchyp I suppose ye understand y^t the monye that I hadde of yowe att Londun maye not jndur w^t me tyll that the Kyng goo in to Walys an kome ageyn for I understand it schall be long or he kome ageyn wher for I haue sent to londun to myn onkyl Clement to gete an C s. of Xpofyr Hansom yowr servaunt and fene it me be my feyd f^rvaunt and myn herneys w^t it whyche I lefte at Lundun to make klene J beseeche yowe not to be dysplefyd w^t it for I kowd make non othyr cheysaunce but I schuld a boruyed it of a strange man Sum of my felawys who I suppose schold not lyke yowe And ye herd of it a nothyr tyme I ame jn fuerte wher as I schall have a nothyr maun jn the stede of Pekoke my lord of Estfexe feythe he wyll do as myche for yowē as for any esquier jn Ingland and Beronnars hys man telht me feyyg yowr fadyr js myche be holdyng to my lord for he lovyth hym well.

Bernners mevyd me ons and feyd y^t ye must nedys do sum wate for my lord and hys and I feyd I wost well y^t ye wold do for hym y^t laye jn yowre powar and he feyd y^t y^r was a lytyl mony be twyxe yowe and a lantylman of Estfexe callyd Dyrward feyyng y^t y^r is as myche be wern my feyd lord and the feyd lantylman of the wyche mony he desieryth yowr part It is talkyd her howe y^t ye and Howard schuld a strevyn togueder on y^c ² fcher daye and on of Howard's men schuld a strekyn yow

² This was probably occasioned by some election or other dispute which arose at the county court.

grace that he may do you good service, that by estimation is not likely; ye shall have knowledge afterward how he hath demeaned him here with me; I would, saving your displeasure, that ye were delivered of him, for he shall never do you profit nor worship.

I suppose ye understand that the money that I had of you at London may not indure with me till that the King go into Wales and come again, for I understand it shall be long ere he come again, wherefore I have sent to London to mine Uncle Clement to get an hundred Shillings of Christopher Hanson your Servant, and send it me by my said Servant, and mine harness with it, which I left at London to make clean.

I beseech you not to be displeased with it, for I could make none other chevifance (*contract*), but I should have borrowed it of a strange man, some of my fellows, who I suppose should not like you, and ye heard of it another time. I am in surety whereas I shall have another man in the stead of Peacock.

My Lord of Essex saith he will do as much for you as for any Esquire in England, and Baronners his man telleth me, saying, "your Father is much beholden to my Lord, for he loveth him well;" Bernners moved me once, and said that ye must needs do somewhat for my Lord and his; and I said, I wist well, that ye would do for him that lay in your power; and he said that there was a little money betwixt you and a Gentleman of Essex called Dyrward, saying, that there is as much between my said Lord and the said Gentleman, of the which money he desireth your part.

It is talked here how that ye and Howard should have striven together on the ² Shire day, and one of Howard's men should

twyefs w^t. a dagere and soo ye schuld a ben hurt but for a good dobelet y^t ye hadde on at that tyme Blyffyd be god that ye hadde it on No mor I wryth to yower good faderhod at thys tym but all myghty God haue yowe in hys kepyng and send yowe vyt-torye of yowr elmyes and worschyp jn cressyng to yowr lyuys endyn Wrytyn at ³ Lewys on Seynt Bertylmwes Eve.

Be yowr f^rvaūt and elder sone,

⁴ John Paston.

11 ½ by 17,

Paper Mark,

a Crofs.

Pl. xxvii. N^o 12.

³ The date of this Letter is, in some measure, ascertained by the place from which it is written, as the King in the summer of 1462 took a progress through several parts of his kingdom; namely to Canterbury, Sandwich, Lewes, &c. and so along the coast to Southampton, from whence he proceeded to the marches of Wales.

LETTER XII.

*To hys rytbe revrent
and Worchypfwill brod^r
John Paston.*

RYTHE rev^tent and worchypfwill brod^r I recomawnde me to yowr good brod^rhood desiering to herre of zour Wel-far and good p^rsp^rite the gwyche I p^ry god encreffe to his pleswr and zowr herts hesse Certyfyng zow y^t I have spok w^t Iohn Rwfse and Playt^r spok w^t him bothe on Fryday be for seynt bar-

have stricken you twice with a dagger, and so ye should have been hurt, but for a good doublet, that ye had on at that time; blessed be God, that ye had it on. No more I write to your good fatherhood at this time, but Almighty God have you in his keeping, and send you victory of your Enemies, and worship increasng to your life's ending.

Written at ³ Lewes, on Saint Bartholomew's Even.

By your Servant and elder Son,

⁴ JOHN PASTON.

Lewes, in Suffex,

23 August, 1461, or 1462.

1 or 2 E. IV.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

L E T T E R XV.

To his right reverend and worshipful Brother John Paston.

RIGHT reverend and worshipful brother, I recommend me to your good brotherhood, desiring to hear of your welfare and good prosperity, the which I pray God increase to his pleasure and your heart's ease, certifying you that I have spoken with John Ruffe, and Playters spoke with him both (*also*) on Friday before Saint Bartholomew; he told us of Howard's guiding,

barthelmw he tolde vs of Howards gydyng gwyche mad vs rythe
 fory tyl we herde y^e cōclufion y^t ze hadde non harme Also I
 und^rstond by W. Pekok y^t my newew hadde knowleche yer of
 also up on Sat^day nexst be for seynt barthelmwe in y^e kyngs
 howse not w^t standyng up on y^e same day Playt^r and I wryte
 letters on to him reherfyng al the mat^r for cāe if yer wer ony
 q^estionys mevyd to hym yer of y^t he xwld telle y^e trowthe in
 cas y^t y^e qwestions wer mevyd by ony Worchypfwill man and
 namyd my lord ¹ bowcher for my lord bowcher was w^t y^e kyng
 at y^t tym I fele by W. Pekok y^t my newew is not zet v^rily
 aqweyntyd in y^e kyngs howse nor w^t y^e officers of y^e kyngs
 howse he is not takyn as non of y^t howse for y^e coks be not
 charged to serue hym nor y^e ² sewer to gyue hym no dyche for
 y^e sewer wyll not tak no men no dyschys till yey be comawndyd
 by y^e cownt^rroller also he is not Aq^eyntyd w^t no body but w^t
³ Weks and Weks ad told hym y^t he wold bryng hym to y^e
 kyng but he hathe not zet do soo Wherfor it were best for hym
 to tak hys leve and cū hom till ze hadd spok w^t Swm body to
 helpe hym forthe for he is not bold y now to put forthe hym
 felfe bur yan I confyderyd y^t if he xwld now cū hom y^e kyng
 wold thyng y^t wan he xwld doo hym ony f^rvie sō wer y^t yan
 ze wold have hym hom y^e qwyche xwld cāe hym not to be
 hadde in fauor And also men wold thynke y^t he wer put owte

This Letter appears to have been written in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. at the time that J. Palton had a son attending in the King's house in expectations of some appointment therein. We have here a curious account of the method of proceeding, and are likewise informed, that attendance there could not be without expence.

The behaviour of Howard here mentioned was, I believe, occasioned by some election disputes.

of

guiding, which made us right sorry, till we heard the conclusion that ye had none harm.

Also I understand by William Peacock that my Nephew had knowledge thereof also upon Saturday next before Saint Bartholomew, in the King's House; notwithstanding upon the same day Playters and I wrote Letters unto him, rehearsing all the matter for cause if there were any questions moved to him thereof, that he should tell the truth, in case that the questions were moved by any worshipful man, and (*we*) named my Lord¹ Bouchier, for my Lord Bouchier was with the King at that time.

I feel by William Peacock that my Nephew is not yet verily acquainted in the King's House, nor with the Officers of the King's House; he is not taken as none of that House, for the Cooks be not charged to serve him, nor the² Sewer to give him no dish, for the Sewer will not take no men no dishes 'till they be commanded by the Controller; also he is not acquainted with nobody but with³ Wykes, and Wykes had told him that he would bring him to the King, but he hath not yet done so; wherefore it were best for him to take his leave and come home, till ye had spoken with some body to help him forth, for he is not bold enough to put forth himself; but then I considered that if he should now come home, the King would think that when he should do him any service, it were that then ye would have him home, the which should cause him not to be had in favour; and also men would think that he were put out of service. Also

¹ William Viscount Bouchier, eldest son of Henry Bouchier, who was created Earl of Essex in June 1461, he was Cousin to Edward IV. and died in the life-time of his father.

² An officer who had the ordering of the dishes, &c.

³ John Wykes was an usher of the King's chamber and a friend and cousin of J. Paston's.

William.

of fr̄vic Also W. Pekok tellythe me y^t his mony is spent and not ryotelly but wysly and discretly for y^e costs is grett^r in y^e kyng's howse qwen he rydythe yan ze wend it hadde be as Wyllam Pekok can tell zow And yer' wee mwst gett hym j C^s at y^e lest As by Wyllam Pekoks seyyng and zet y^t will be to lytill And I wot well we kan not get xl^d of Xptifyr Hanfwm so I xall be fayn to lend it hym of myn owne filur if I knew v^rily zo^r entent wer y^t he xwld cū hom I wold send hym non Ther' I wyll doo as me thynkithe ze xwld be best plesyd and y^t me thynkythe is to send him y^e filur yer for i p'y zow hastely as ze may send me azen v mark and y^e remnawnte I trow I xall get up on Xpofir Hanfwm and lwket I p'y zow send me it as hastely as ze may for I xall leve my selfe rythe bare and i p'y zow send me A lett^r how ze woll y^t he xull be demenyd Wrytyn on twfday aft^r Seynt Barthelmwe &c. Xps vos cōservet !

By

⁴ Clement Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁴ Clement Paston was a younger brother of J. Paston.
Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 22.

ICC-

William Peacock telleth me that his money is spent, and not riotously, but wisely, and discreetly, for the costs is greater in the King's House when he rideth then ye wend it had been, as William Peacock can tell you; and therefore we must get him one hundred Shillings at the least, as by William Peacock's saying, and yet that will be too little, and I wot well we cannot get forty pence of Christopher Hanson, so I shall be fain to lend it him of mine own silver; if I knew verily your intent were that he should come home, I would send him none; therefore I will do as me thinketh ye should be best pleased, and that me thinketh is to send him the silver; therefore I pray you (*as*) hastily as ye may send me again five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and the remanent I trow I shall get upon Christopher Hanson and Loket. I pray you send me it as hastily as ye may, for I shall leave my self right bare, and I pray you send me a Letter how ye will that he shall be demeaned. Written on Tuesday after Saint Bartholomew, &c. Christus vos conservet!

By

† CLEMENT PASTON.

August,

about 1461, or 1462,

1 or 2 E. IV.

L E T T E R XIIJ.

*To the right reverent
and wurcheppfull Sr and
my gode maystr. John Paston esquier.*

RIGHT reverent and wurcheppfull Sr I recomaud me to
yo^r gode mayst^rsherp P^yng you to wete y^t I was at Blakkes
and spake w^t his wiffe and she feth he was not at hame this
iiij weks he ridith up y^e Countre to take accompts of Balys and
y^t y^{is} day sevennyght he shuld haue satyn in Caystr by you up
on accounts and fro thens he shuld haue redyn to lynne And y^e
he shall be at home un Monday at nyght next comyng Wherfor
I haue left my heraund w^t her but she feth y^t he shall not mown
comyn to you for my lady haue sent for hym in gret hast bothyn
be a lett^r and be a tokyn to comyn to her as hastily as he may
notw^tstandyng she shall do the herand to hym As for Yelv^ton I
dede a gode fele to enquer of yemmys Skynn^r whan y^e seid
Yelv^ton shuld go to london he seid not this sevynnyght he
cowde not tell what day till he had spokyn w^t his Son his Sone
shuld come to hym or his mast^r shuld ridyn I shall enquer mor
at Walfyngh^m And for godds loue be not to longe fro London.

This Letter contains little matter of curiosity, and had it not been for the mention of the Duke of Gloucester's being to have Caister, I should not have inserted it.

Every Anecdote of this Prince, of whose private affairs so little is known, the Historian will be thankful for.

Blake seems to have been concerned in taking accounts of Goods imported or exported, on account of the duties paid to the Crown.

L E T T E R XVI.

*To the right reverend and worshipful Sir, and my good Master
John Paston, Esquire.*

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Sir, I recommend me to your good mastership, praying you to weet that I was at Blakes and spake with his Wife, and she saith he was not at home this three weeks, he rideth up the Country to take accounts of Bales, and that this day sev'night he should have fate in Caister by you upon accounts, and from thence he should have ridden to Lynn, and that he shall be at home on Monday at night next coming; wherefore I have left my errand with her; but she saith that he shall not mown coming (*be able to come*) to you, for my Lady have sent for him in great haste, both by a Letter and by a token to come to her, as hastily as he may, notwithstanding she shall do the errand to him.

As for Yelverton I did a good feel to enquire of James Skinner when the said Yelverton should go to London; he said not this sev'night, he could not tell what day till he had spoken with his Son, his Son should come to him ere his Master should ride; I shall enquire more at Walsingham; and for God's love be not

We are here also informed of some disagreement subsisting between John Paston and his Mother Dame Agnes Paston.

On the back of this Letter in a hand of that time, is the following Memorandum, &c. which ascertains the date.

"Rico Calle p ord'm b'm p ij annis t'minatis ad m'c A° primo r.r. E. iiij
xxvj^s. viij^d."

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 16.

for men feyn ther as I haue be y^t my lord of Glowcetir shuld haue Cayst^r And y^tis gret noyse of this reuell y^t was don in Suffolk be Yelv^rton and Ieney And yo^r wele willers thynkyn y^t if thei myght p^rvayle in this thei wold attempt you in other but feas ther pore and malyce and p^rserve you from all evill And at y^e reu^ence of god lete fū int^rp^rcon go a twix you and my mastres yo^r mod^r or ye go to London and all y^t ye do shall spede the bett^r for she is set on gret malyce and eu^y man y^t she spekith w^t knowith her hert and it is like to be a fowle noyse all y^e countre w^t aught it be sone sesid Also S^r it is told me that my lord of Norfolk is Comyn to Framygh'm And y^t ye be gretly Comendyd ī his howshold therfor it wer wele do me semyth y^t ye spake w^t hym The holy Trynyte kepe you Wretyn at Norwich y^e Thursday next aft^r Sent Mathewe.

Yo^r pore Prest,

James Gloys.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.

Seal :

A Rose.

Pl. xiv. N^o 5.

LET

too long from London, for men say there, as I have been (*informed*) that my Lord of Gloucester should have Caister, and there is great noise of this revel that was done in Suffolk by Yelverton and Jenney; and your well-willers think that if they might prevail in this, they would attempt you in others, but cease their power and malice, and preserve you from all evil, and at the reverence of God let some interposition go a-twixt you and my mistress your Mother ere ye go to London, and all that ye do shall speed the better, for she is set on great malice, and every man that she speaketh with, knoweth her heart, and it is like to be a foul noise (*over*) all the Country without it be soon ceased.

Also Sir it is told me, that my Lord of Norfolk is coming to Framlingham, and that ye be greatly commended in his household, therefore it were well done, me seemeth that ye spake with him.

The Holy Trinity keep you. Written at Norwich, the Thursday after St. Matthew.

Your poor Priest,

JAMES GLOYS.

Norwich,

Thursday, 24th of September.

1461. 1 E. IV.

LET.

LETTER XIII.

*To our trusty and enterly
beloved Servaunt Iohn
Paston Esquyr.*

The deuke of Norff.

RYGHTE welbeloved Servaunt y grete yow hertly welle fer-
tefying that we shulle be at fulle age on Fryday next
comyng wherfor wele Cōsayled be the lordes of our Cōsayle
and Oder of our Cōsayle that ye on of our Servaunts of howf-
holde w^t. Oder be w^t. us at London on Fryday or Saterdag next
comyng at the ffurdest too a cōpanye us thaun too our Worshyp
for we shull have thaun levery of our landes and Offyces And
that ye ffayle us not as ye woll have our goodlordeshyp in tyme
comyng And also that ye doo warne our ¹ ffeede men And
Servaunts fuche as be nye too yow that they be ther thaun in
our leverey y wreton the xij day of October.

² Norff.

12 by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, succeeded his father in 1461, 1 E. IV. and I should suppose came at age very soon after, for in November, 1462, he by the King's command was to keep his Christmas at his Castle of Holt in Denbighshire, when he appears to have been married, and was then most probably past his twenty-first year.

This Letter might, therefore, be written on the 12th of October, 1461, and at latest on the same day in 1462.

We are here acquainted with the parade and attendance expected by the nobility from their Retainers and Vassals on the delivery of their lands, and on their taking possession of offices.

LET.

L E T T E R XVII.

To our trusty and entirely beloved Servant John Paston, Esq.

The Duke of Norfolk.

RIGHT well-beloved Servant, I greet you heartily well, certifying (*you*) that we shall be at full age on riday next coming, wherefore well counselled by the Lords of our Counsel and other of our Counsel, that ye one of our Servants of household with others be with us at London on Friday or Saturday next coming at the furthest to accompany us then to our worship, for we shall have then livery of our Lands and Offices, and that ye fail us not, as ye will have our good Lordship in time coming, and also that ye do warn our ¹ Feedmen and Servants, such as be nigh to you, that they be there then in our Livery. Written the 12th day of October.

² NORFOLK.

Monday,

12 October, 1461.

1 E. IV.

¹ Feedmen were those who held lands by an acknowledgment of any superiority to a higher Lord.

² John Mowbray was the last Duke of Norfolk of that name, and married Elizabeth daughter of that renowned warrior John Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury; he died suddenly at Framlingham Castle, in Suffolk, on Wednesday the 17th of January, 1475. See Letters LXVII. vol. i. p. 187.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 3.

L E T

LETTER XIII.

RYGHTE Worchefull Maſt^r I Recōmend me on to yow &c.
 y^e cauſe of my wrytyng is yis J was at blofeld on ſent
 Andruys Day wyt y^e p^rſon and he vnd^rſtode non noder but y^t
 I cam to ſe is Maſt^r chepe for it was heſe cheue day and y^t I
 meuyd in to hym of y^e lond in ſochewerk how J hard ſey qwan
 I was in ſochefolk y^t Geney mad hys auuant y^t he had zon zow
 and hym a choppe of xx pownd of lond and in contynent he
 telde me al y^e mat^r bet yan J cowde telle hym and as I cowde
 vnd^rſtond in hym be my ſympyl wyt y^t he was of knoleche of
 alle y^e mat^r for he ſeyd y^t yelu^rton cam don fro y^e benche and
 plete y^e mat^r and for cauſe ye wer to laches and cam not in tyme
 y^e mat^r yede a mys and ſo I vnd^rſtode be hym y^t he is dyſpoſyd
 to excuſe yelu^rton in al mat^r'ys rather yan yow but neu^r de les
 make good cher to y^e perſon as yow ye vnd^rſtode y^t he wer your
 frend tyl tyme ye haue your in tente but be warr and troſt hym
 not but make yow ſo ſtorng in lorchepe and in y^e lawe y^t ye
 reeke not meche qwd^r he be good or bad &c. It' ye be meche
 be held on to tom's Grene and to Edmund Wydewel brod^r to
 Heu A Fen for yei reporte meche worchepe of your Maſt^r chepe
 in al maters and y^t cauſe y^e ſubſtans of y^e towne to howe yow
 ſerueſe

Though this Letter has neither addreſs nor ſubſcription it appears to have been written to John Paſton, in the beginning of Edward the Fourth's reign, and the buſineſs it contains ſeems to be relative to Sir John Faſtolf's affairs and will.

Thomas Howys was parſon of Blofield from about 1460 to 1471, and his cheve-day, or thriving-day, I ſhould ſuppoſe means the day on which he received the profits of his living ;

L E T T E R XVIII.

To my right worshipful Master, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Master, I recommend me unto you, &c. the cause of my writing is this, I was at Blofield on Saint Andrew's day (30 November) with the parson, and he understood none other but that I came to see his mastership, for it was his cheve day; and there I moved unto him of the land in Sochewerk (*Southwark*) how I heard say when I was in Suffolk that Jenney made his avaunt that he had given you and him a chop of twenty pound (*worth*) of land; and incontinent (*immediately*) he told me all the matter better than I could tell him; and as I could understand in him by my simple wit, that he was of knowledge of all the matter, for he said that Yelverton came down from the Bench, and plete (*pleaded*) the matter, and for cause ye were so laches (*negligent*), and came not in time, the matter yede (*went*) amifs, and so I understand by him, that he is disposed to excuse Yelverton in all matters rather than you, but nevertheless make good cheer to the parson as though ye understood that he were your friend, till time ye have your intent, but beware and trust him not, but make you so strong in lordship and in the law, that ye reek not (*care not*) much whether he be good or bad, &c.

Item, ye be much beholden unto Thomas Greene and to Edmund Wydeville, brother to Hugh Fenn, for they report much worship of your mastership in all matters, that causes the sub-

living; Saint Andrew's day being now a usual time for the payment of compositions for tythes.

The Writer of this Letter was a friend of J. Paston, and, from the advice which he here gives him, may be supposed one who knew mankind.

feruese and be wel dysposyd on to yow Mast'chepe and yat vnd'r-
 stonde J hev'y day and yf y^t plese yow qwan we partyt at Nor-
 wyche in yowr plase ye feyd on to me ye wold som qat do be
 my sympyl a wyse and yis is myn a wyse y^t in ony wyse ye
 make Heuafen and tom's Grene on your consel yf ye can
 fyne in yow herte for I dare sey as J her and vnd'r stonde y^t yei
 how yow ryth good well and feryse for a man may her be y^e
 halfe qwat y^e hole menyth and y'for for godds lowe remember
 yow wel in yis mat'r for and it stode on m̄ lyfe J wold do as I
 awyse yow &c. It' for howr lords loue goo tharow w^t wyll
 Wefet'r and also plese chrewys as ye thynke in yow hert best for
 to do for it is a Comon prouerbe a man must sumtyme set a
 candel befor y^e deuylye and y'for yow it be not ald'r most mede
 and p'fytabyl yet of ij harmys y^e leste is to be take It' ye xul
 oond'r stonde y^t y^e parson telde me y^t dey wer somūd to cum for
 y^e p'bat of y^e testement at cōuercyon of sent Powle and y'for
 J wolde auyse yow in ony wyse y^t ye xuld vnd'r stond y^e mat'r
 wysely her ye Com hom for I sopose y^t yelurton and he is con-
 fydet't and acorde to ged'r It' qwan I was at Blofeld w^t y^e p'son
 y' cam Robert Fyraf's to hym seyyng y^t he is compeld be y^e kyngs
 cōmycyoners to have harnes aft'r is degre and y^t y^t p'son sent
 hym to my Mastras y^e che xuld delyu'r hym harnes and I vnd'r-
 stond che wylle not tylle ye com hom but ye xul vnd'r stond it is
 anhalmes dede to do hym good vnd'r stondyng is neseffyte and nede
 y^t he stond in and also vnd'r stondyng y^t he was kynnyes man to
 my

stance of the town to owe you service, and be well disposed unto your mastership, and that understand I every day; and if it please you, when we parted at Norwich in your place ye said unto me ye would somewhat do by my simple advice; and this is mine advice, that in any wise ye make Hugh Fenn and Thomas Greene on your counsel, if ye can find in your heart, for I dare say as I hear and understand that they owe you right good will and service, for a man may hear by the half what the whole meaneth; and therefore for God's love remember you well in this matter, for and (*if*) it stood on my life I would do as I advise you, &c.

Item, for our Lord's love go through with William Worcester and also please Chrewys as ye think in your heart best for to do, for it is a common proverb, "A man must sometimes set a candle before the Devil;" and therefore though it be not aldermost meet and profitable, yet "of two harms the least is to be taken."

Item, ye shall understand that the parson told me that they were summoned to come for the probate of the Testament at (*the*) Conversion of Saint Paul (25 *January*), and therefore I would advise you in any wise, that ye should understand the matter wisely ere ye come home, for I suppose that Yelverton and he is confederate, and accord together.

Item, when I was at Blofield with the parson, there came Robert Fyrafs (*Ferrers q?*) to him, saying that he is compelled by the King's Commissioners to have harness after his degree, and that the parson sent him to my mistress that she should deliver him harness, and I understand she will not till ye come home, but ye shall understand it is an alms deed to do him good, understanding his necessity and need that he stand in, and also under-

my Mastr and it is a comon p'uerbe a man xuld kepe fro y^e blynde and geuyt to is kyn and heu'̄y man wyl sey wel y'of y^e mor cause he is a gentylman and of is kyne and in gret penur and y'for for y^e loue of god remembyr seche maters No mor at yis tyme but god have yow in hys kepyng bothe body and fowle and spede yow in yowr maters as wel as wel as J wolde ye xulde do.

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N^o 2.

L E T T E R III.

*To the ryght Wurshipfull
Sr and Meystr myn Maystr
Iohn Paston squier.*

RYGH^T worshipfull S^re and Maystr I recomaunde me to yow and please yow that the Chirche of Drayton is or shal be resyngned in haft in to the byfshopys hands by S^r John Bullok desyryng yow hertly y^t ye lyke I may haue the p'sentacon of the next Avoydaunce for a newew of myn callyd S^r Reynold Spendlove whiche J truste y'ore maystrship wold agree to make in yo'e name and myn as was last &c. And S^r please yow also y^t I haue hadde diu'se communicacons wi^t Worcest^r sethe Crystmesse and I fele by hym otterly that he wole not appoynt
in

standing that he was kinsman to my master, and it is a common proverb, "A man should keep from the blind and give it to his kind," and every man will say well hereof, the more because he is a gentleman, and of his kin, and in great penury; and therefore for the love of God remember such matters. No more at this time, but God have you in his keeping both body and soul, and speed you in your matters as well as I would ye should do.

December, or January,

between 1460 and 1462.

1 and 2 E. IV.

L E T T E R XIX.

*To my right worshipful Sir and Master, mine Master John
Paston, Esquire.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir and Master, I recommend me to you, and please you that the Church of Drayton is or shall be resigned in haste into the Bishop's hands by Sir John Bullock, desiring you heartily that ye like I may have the presentation of the next avoidance for a nephew of mine called Sir Reynold Spendelowe, which I trust your mastership will agree to make in your name and mine as was last, &c. And Sir, please you also that I have had divers communications with Worcester since Christmas, and I feel by him utterly that he will not appoint in
other

in other fourme than to have the londs of Feyrechildes and other londes in Drayton to the fume of X m^{re} of yow pprely by fyde that y^t he defyreth of myn Mayst^r whom God affoye whiche mater I remytte to yo^r noble discrecon. And as for Answere of the bylles y^t J have I have ben so fekelew fethe Cryftmasse that I myght not yette don hem but J shal in alle haft wher inne ye may excufe yow by me if ye please tyl the next terme at whiche tyme alle shal be aunswered be godds grace who p^rf^rve yow and fend yow th accomplyshem^t of yo^e defyres &c. It^r fere please yo^e mayst^rship hit was leten me wete in ryght secrete wyse y^t a pyssaunce is redy to aryve in thre p^rties of this londe by the meane of Kyng Herry and the quene y^t wes and by the Dewk Som^rcete and others of VI^{xx} m^l men and here dey if Wynde and weder hadde f^rvyd theym shuld a ben here sone upon Candelmaffe at Trente to london werdes yeⁱ shuld a ben by Candelmaffe or sone after one p^rte of theym and another p^rte comyng from Walys and the thredde fro Yernessey and Garneffeye wher fore it is weel don ye enforme myn lord Warwyk y^t he may speke to the Kyng y^t good p^rvyion be hadde for w^t-standyng there malicyous p^rpose and evyl wyllle whiche god graunt we may our come theym and so we shuld I dought not

The following Extracts from the Institution Books in the Registry of the Bishop of Norwich, ascertain the date of this Letter.

Draiton.

"Reg. xi. 124. 29 January, 1460-1. Johnnes Bullock ad præsentationem Joh^{is} Paston arm. & Tho. Howys Capellani."

"Reg. xi. 131. 15 March, 1461-2. Joh^{es} Flourdew ad præsentationem eorundem."

It appears from hence that John Bullock resigned the Living of Drayton in 1461-2, and that on the 15th of March John Flowerdew was presented thereto, and not S^r Reynold Spendlowe.

if

other form than to hold the land of Fairchilds, and other lands in Drayton to the sum of ten Marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) of you properly, beside that that he desireth of mine Master, whom God affoil, which matter I remit to your noble discretion.

And as for answer of the Bills that I have, I have been so fekelele (*sickly*) since Christmas that I might not yet done them, but I shall in all haste, wherein ye may excuse you by me if ye please till the next term, at which time all shall be answered by God's grace, who preserve you and send you the accomplishment of your desires, &c.

— Item, Sir please your mastership, it was letten me weet in right secret wise that a puissance is ready to arrive in three parts of this land, by the mean of King Harry and the Queen that was, and by the Duke (*of*) Somerset and others, of six score thousand men, and their day, if wind and weather had served them, should have been here soon upon Candlemas; at Trent to London ward, they should have been by Candlemas, or soon after, one part of them, and another part coming from Wales, and the third from Jersey and Guernsey, wherefore it is well done ye inform mine Lord Warwick, that he may speak to the King, that good provision be had for withstanding their malicious purpose and evil will, which God grant we may overcome

At this time Henry VI. was in Scotland, and his Queen in France soliciting assistance from Lewis XI. though with little success; the report therefore of an invasion with so large an army could have no real foundation; it was, however, the news of the day, and alarmed the friends of Edward.

On the Seal of this Letter is the impression of the Bear, the well known cognizance of the Earl of Warwick. It shews both the popularity and power which this great Peer had at this time when his friends used this device of his on their seals.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 16.

them,

if we were alle on there ben many medelers and they ben best cheryshed whyche wold hurt moche if these come to as God diffende &c.

C. Howys.

12 by 6.

Paper Mark,
Two Pales, in a Lozenge Shield,
surmounted by a Coronet.
Pl. ix. N^o 13.

Seal,
A Bear and ragged Staff,
or rather a Bear passant, I believe.

L E T T E R XX.

*To my mooste rev^rt and
wurschipfull Mastre my
M. Iohn Paston be this
delyverd.*

PLESITH it yo^r goode Mastreschip to undrestande y^t I haue receyved a byll of John Boteler weche speketh of yo^r heygh at Heylefdn and of yo^r barly in other places but I undrestand not what ye wold I schulde do therin nevertheles I schal do make it redy and as for yo^r heygh I schull tell you whan I come hume And as for money at Heylefd'n I can non gete And at Sueynesthorp I haue take iiij m^{rc} It' as for tidynge the sescons schal be at Thetford on Wednesday next comyng where I vn-drestande M. Berney wol be w^t moche people be cauce ther is come to h^y a prevy seale that he schuld be w^t the Kyng wⁱⁿ vj dayes that the prevy seale whas delyverd h^y weche he can not

them, and so we should I doubt not if we were all one, there be many meddlers, and they be best cherished, which would hurt much if these come too, as God defend, &c.

THOMAS HOWYS.

February, 1461-2.

1 E. IV.

L E T T E R XX.

To my most reverend and worshipful Master, my Master John Paston, be this delivered.

PLEASETH your good mastership to understand that I have received a bill of John Boteler, which speaketh of your hay at hellefdon, and of your barley in other places, but I understand not what ye would I should do therein; nevertheless I shall do make (*have it made*) ready; and as for your hay I shall tell you when I come home; and as for money at Hellefdon I cannot get, and at Swainsthorp I have taken four marks (2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*)

Item, as for tidings the Sessions shall be at Thetford on Wednesday next coming, where I understand Master Berney will be with much people, because there is come to him a Privy Seal that he should be with the King within six days (*after*) that the Privy Seal was delivered him, which he cannot do, for the sixth

VOL. IV.

L

day

doo for the vj day is to morwe ther is on comen to Felbrigge to Will'm Yelv'ton on other and to Rob't Rough an other And non of them wol goo to the Kyng and the undrescherif tolde me that ther is comen A comyscon down to hes maistre that in cas they Come not up to the Kyng be ther prevy seales that than he rere the contre and take hem and bryng hem to the Kyng where so eu' he be It' Jamys Gresh'm tellethe me the same and as for tidyngs fro Lond'n we here non but y' John Colman telleth me that if Berney or Rob't Rough come up they are like to die y' be come to london embaseto's From the Duke of Burgun' weche cauced the Kyng to spede h̄y the rather to lond'n It' as for any newe Affises at Thetford ther is non but that hathe hanged this v yere as the scherif tellethe me I whas p'posed to be at home this nyght tell I had yo' bille weche cauceth me to ride on to Drayton for diu's thyngs &c. Almyghty Ihu preserve you Wretē at Norwiche the ij munday of clene lente.

Yo' pore Beedemā and f'v'nt,

Ric Calle.

12 by 7 1/4.

Seal, Pl. xxiii. N° 8.

An Eagle's Head erased.

Motto illegible.

Paper Marks,

Wheels, &c.

Pl. xxiii. N° 10.

The Persons here mentioned to have been summoned to attend the King under his writ of Privy Seal were at this time I suppose suspected not only of concerning themselves in the affairs of their late Sovereign Henry VI. but of acting for his interest, particularly Berney and Rough, or such violent proceedings as that of raising the county to apprehend them, would scarcely have been commanded: it might however be for some other cause.

REC.

day is to-morrow ; there is one come to Felbrigg, to William Yelverton one other, and to Robert Rough another, and none of them will go to the King ; and the Under Sheriff told me that there is come a Commission down to his Master, that in case they come not up to the King by their Privy Seals, that then he rear the Country and take them and bring them to the King wheresoever he be.

Item, James Gresham telleth me the same, and as for tidings from London we hear none, but that John Colman telleth me that if Berney or Robert Rough come up they are like to die.

There be come to London Ambassadors from the Duke of Burgundy, which caused the King to speed him the rather to London.

Item, as for any new Assizes at Thetford there is none but that hath hanged this five years, as the Sheriff telleth me.

I was purposed to be at home this night till I had your bill, which causeth me to ride on to Drayton for divers things, &c. Almighty Jesu preserve you.

Written at Norwich, the second Monday of clean Lent.

Your poor Beadsman and Servant,

RICHARD CALLE.

Norwich,

Monday, 15 March,

1461-2. 2 E. IV.

If William Yelverton had offended, he soon made his peace, for he now was, and continued to be, a Justice of the King's Bench.

This embassy from Philip Duke of Burgundy fixes the date of this Letter to the year 1461-2, as in the beginning of this year his ambassadors arrived.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9.

L E T T E R XXJ.

*To my right Singler
Maister J. Paston
Squyer in hast &c.*

AFTER due recomendacon Please it yo^r maiest^yship to wyte
Maist^r Yeluerton Justic seid in y^e Sessions y^t y^e Kyng
shulde kepe his Estern at Bury and from thens Come unto yis
Cuntre and se fuyche riottes as haue be in yis Cuntre punyshed
in suche fourme as happely summe shulde hange by y^e nekke
And he tolde what thank he had of y^e Kyng at Cambrigg for
cause he declarid so well y^e Charge of extorcons doon by shirefs
and oy^r officers &c. for y^e whiche declaracon y^e Kyng tooke
hym by y^e hand and seid he cowde hym grett thanke and p^yed
hym so to do in yis Cuntre &c. In hast at Norwich y^e Wed-
nesseday next tofore yannunciacon &c.

Yo^r pov^e

J. Gresh'm.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

It appears from this Letter that the King in person attended at the Assizes in Cambridge, during the time that his Judges transacted the business of the Court.

The extortions, and other acts of oppression, done by the Sheriffs, &c. of counties were at this time very great, and loudly called for reformation.

L E T T

L E T T E R XXI.

To my right singular Master, J. Paston, Esq. in haste, &c.

AFTER due recommendation please it your mastership to weet that Master Yelverton Justice, said in the Sessions that the King should keep his Easter at Bury, and from thence come into this country and see such riots as have been in this country punished in such form as happily some should hang by the neck; and he told what thank he had of the King at Cambridge for cause he declared so well the charge of extortion done by Sheriffs and other officers, &c. for the which declaration the King took him by the hand, and said he cowde (*owed*) him great thanks, and prayed him so to do in this country, &c.

In haste at Norwich the Wednesday next before the Annunciation.

Your poor

JAMES GRESHAM.

Norwich,

Wednesday, 24 March,

1461-2. 2 E. IV.

but this date is not certain.

On the back of this Letter is written the following memorandum: "Justice Yelverton boasteth of cōmendacon had at the King's hands."

Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28.

LET-

L E T T E R XXX.

*On to my Maystyr
Pastone be y' lr
delyv'ryd.*

RYTH wurchopful Sere I recomānd me on to you and iff it lyke you I have spokyn w^t Buffard and demaūdyd hym iff he had any evydens dedys or copyis or any oy^r evydens of any place or off any lyflod y^t longg^t on to my mayst^r and seyth nay be is Feyth and be is trowthe For if he hadde he wold send hem on to you w^t a good wyl for he seyth it xud don hym non esō and ser iff it plese you I askyd hym if he knew any evydens y^t he had delyv'ryd on to Will' Woffetyr bill or deds or any oy^r evydens y^t xuld longgē on to any purchas or off any lyflod on to my maystryes and he seyth nay trewly For he seyth y^c last tyme y^t he wrot on to Will Wuffet^r it was be ffor myssomyr and yāne he wrot acronekyl of Ierewsaleme and y^c Jorneyes y^t my mayst^r dede whyl he was in Frānce y^t god on is Sowle haue m^ccy and he seyth y^t y^s drow more yan xx Whazerys off paper and y^s wrytyng delyv'ryd on to Will Wurffet^r and non oy^r ne knowyth not off non oy^r be is feyth.

Be yo^r Man

J. Daby.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

This Letter was most probably written in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. after the Executors of Sir J. Fastolf had disagreed amongst themselves, and would scarcely have been worth preserving, but as it mentions "A Chronicle of Jerusalem," and "A History of the valiant Acts of Sir John Fastolf."

L E T

L E T T E R XXII.

Unto my Master Paston, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, and if it like you I have spoken with Buffard, and demanded (*asked*) him if he had any evidence, deeds, or copies, or any other evidence of any place, or of any livelihood that longg^t (*belongeth*) unto my master, and (*he*) saith nay by his faith and by his truth, for if he had he would send them unto you with a good will; for he saith, it should do him none ease, (*they would be of no use to him*). And Sir if it please you I asked him if he knew any evidence that he had delivered unto William Worcester, bill, or deeds, or any other evidence, that should belong unto any purchase, or of any livelihood unto my Master's, and he saith nay truly, for he saith the last time that he wrote unto William Worcester it was before Midsummer and then he wrote "A Chronicle of Jerusalem," and the Jornes (*Journes, valiant Exploits*) that my Master (*Fastolf*) did while he was in France, that God on his soul have mercy! And he saith that this drew more than twenty Whazerys (*Wases, Bundles, q?*) of paper, and this writing (*he*) delivered unto William Worcester and none other, nor knoweth not of none other by his faith.

By your man,

JOHN DAVY.

Most probably written after 1460,
and in the beginning of the reign
of E. IV.

This Buffard appears to have been one of those persons who were employed to transcribe Books before the Art of Printing reached England, and perhaps was likewise concerned in drawing up, as well as in writing, the Account of Sir John Fastolf's Exploits in France.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. No 24.

L E T-

LETTER XXXIII.

*To my Ryth reverrend and
worcheppfull Fadyr Iohn Paston
be thys delyuryd.*

AFTYR all humbyll and most due recomendacion as lowly
as I can I besече yow of yo^r blyssyng plesyt yow to
have knowlege y^t as on Sonday next be for Myhelmas day as
my modyr came fro london ward sche cam homward by Cotton
and sche sent for me to Heylysdon to come to hyr thedyr
and so I haue ben in the plase eu^r sethyn And as sone as
Myhelmas day was past I begane to dystreyne the ten'nts and
gadryd some syllyvr as myche I trowe as wyll pay for ou^r costs
and yet I cepe here ryth a good Felawscchep and mor wer
p'mysyd me whyche y^t came not to me wherby I was ner de-
seyuyd for when Debnam herd sey how y^t I began to gadyr
syllyvr he reysyd many men w^t in j daye and an halfe to y^e
nombyr of iij^c men as I was credibly assartaynyed by a yeman
of y^e Chambyr of my lordys that owythe me good wyll whch
yeman as sone as he had sene ther felawscchep rod streyth to my
lord and jnformyd hym of it and also he informyd my lord how
y^t

We have here an exact picture of the times, and are furnished with the steps taken to keep and defend landed property. Possession seemed to depend entirely upon the number of men the Possessor was able to bring together at a short notice, to resist such a fellowship as his Adversary brought to dispossess him. The influence of the Great, however, extended far, and if they interfered, the others were obliged to submit. This seems to have been the case here, as the heads of both parties were Retainers of the Duke of Norfolk. Had they been under different Nobles, perhaps a local civil commotion would have

L E T T E R XXIII.

*To my right reverend and worshipful Father John Paston, be
this delivered.*

AFTER all humble and most due recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beseech you of your blessing ; please it you to have knowledge that as on Sunday next before Michaelmas Day as my mother came from London ward, she came homeward by Cotton, and she sent for me to Hellefdon to come to her thither, and so I have been in the place ever since ; and as soon as Michaelmas day was passed I began to distrain the tenants, and gathered some silver, as much, I trow, as will pay for our costs, and yet I keep here right a good fellowship, and more were promised me, which that came not to me, whereby I was near deceived, for when Debenham heard say how that I began to gather silver, he raised many men within one day and an half to the number of three hundred men, as I was credibly ascertained by a Yeoman of the Chamber of my Lord's (*of Norfolk*) that oweth me good will, which Yeoman as soon as he had seen their fellowship rode strait to my Lord and informed him of it ; and also he informed my Lord how that I had gathered another

have been stirred up, and many lives have been lost before the contest had been decided.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact year in which this Letter was written. I think it must have been in the beginning of King Edward's reign, but I am not certain.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

The Debenhams were a family of consequence in Suffolk, and Hemneshall in the parish of Cotton, since belonged to the Pretymans, a family of respectability in the county of Suffolk ; it is now the estate of Edmund Tyrel, Esq. of Gipping.

y^t I had gadryd a nothyr gret felashfchep whyche felawfchep he namyd more then we wer by j^c and an halfe and yett more and he feyd on to my lord and my lady and to ther confell y^t w^t ow^t that my lord took a dyrectyon in the mat^r that ther wer leek to be do gret harme on bothe ou^r pertyes wheche wer a gret dyfworchep to my lord Confederyng how y^t he takyth us bothe for hys men and so we be knowyn well jnow upon whyche Informacion and dyfworchep to my lord y^t tweyn of hys men fchold debat so ner hym Contrary to y^c Kyngs pefe Confedryd of my lord and my lady and ther Cownfell my lord sent for me and Syr Gylberd Debnam to come to hym to Framlyngh'm bothe and as it fortunyd well my modyr come to me to Cotton not half an owyr be for y^t the mesenger cam to me fro my lord wheche was late upon twyfsday last past at nyth and the next day on the mornynge I rod to my lord to Framlyngh'm and so ded Syr Gylberd also and as sone as we wer come we wer sent for to come to my lord and when we come to my lord he desyryd of us bothe y^t we fchold neythyrthyr gadyr no felawfchep but fychen men as we had gadryd y^t we fchold fend hem home a yen and y^t the Coort fchold be Contenuyd in to the tyme y^t my lord or fychen as he wold asyngne had spok bothe w^t yow and Yelv^rton and lenney and y^t on Jndeferent man chofyn by us bothe fchold be affynyd to kep' the plafe in to y^c tyme y^t ye and they wer spook w^t And then I answed my lord and feyd how y^t at that tyme I had my maistryr w^tin y^c man^r of Cotton whyche was my modyr and in to the tyme y^t I had spook w^t hyr I cowd geve none answer and so my lord sent Rychord Fulm^rston berer hereof to my

modyr

great fellowship, which fellowship he named more than we were by one hundred and an half and yet more; and he said unto my Lord, and my Lady, and to their Counfel that without that my Lord took a direction in the matter, that there were like to be done great harm on both our parties, which were a great disworship to my Lord considering how that he taketh us both for his men, and so we be known well enough; upon which information, and disworship to my Lord, that twain of his men should debate so near him, contrary to the King's peace, considered of my Lord and my Lady and their Counfel, my Lord sent for me and Sir Gilbert Debenham to come to him to Framlingham both; and as it fortunèd well my Mother came to me to Cotton not half an hour before that the messenger came to me from my Lord, which was late upon Tuesday last past at night, and the next day on the morning I rode to my lord to Framlingham, and so did Sir Gilbert also, and as soon as we were come, we were sent for to come to my Lord, and when we came to my Lord, he desired of us both that we should neither gather no fellowship, but such men as we had gathered, that we should send them home again, and that the Court should be continued into the time that my Lord, or such as he would assign had spoken both with you, and Yelverton, and Jenney; and that one indifferent man, chosen by us both, should be assigned to keep the place into the time that ye and they were spoken with.

And then I answered my Lord and said, how that at that time I had my Master within the Manor of Cotton, which was my Mother, and into the time that I had spoken with her, I could give none answer; and so my Lord sent Richard Fulmerston

modyr thys day for an Answer whyche Answer he schold bryng
 to my lord to london for my lord rod to londons word as yest^rday
 and y^e soner be cause he trustyd to haue a good end of y^{is} mat^r
 and alle othyr be twyx yow whyche he takyth for a gret wor-
 chep to hym and a gret Auantage bothe and he coud bryng
 y^{is} mat^r abowt for then he wold trust to haue you^r servyse alle
 whyche wer to hym gret trefou^r and Auantage And y^{is} was the
 answer y^t my modyr and I gaue hym y^t at y^e instans of my
 lord and my ladye we wold do y^{ur} myche as for to put y^e Coort
 in Coutenuans and no more to receyve of y^e profyts of y^e man^r
 than we had and had dystrefid for tyll in to y^e tym that sche and
 I had werd ayen fro my lord and yow if so wer y^t y^{ey} wold ney-
 thyr mak entreys nor dystreyn the ten[']ntys nor chepe no coort
 mor then we wold do and we told Rychord Fulm[']ston that
 thys my modyr and I ded at y^e Instans and gret request of my
 lord be cause my lord intendyd pes whyche resonably we wold
 not be ayenst and yet we seyde we hnew well y^t we schold haue
 no thank of yow when ye knew of it w^t owt it wer be eause we
 ded it at my lordys Iustans but be for thys answer we had re-
 ceyyd as myche sylvyr full ner as Rychord Calle sent us bokys
 of for to gadyryt bye and as for y^e possellyon of y^e plase we told
 hym y^t we wold kepe it and Syr Gylberd agreyd so that Yelv[']ton
 and Ieney wold do y^e fame for it was tyme for hym to sey so for
 my lord told hym y^t he wold hym fast by the Feet ellys to be
 fuyr of hym y^t he schold make non Insurreccions in to y^e tyme
 y^t my lord came ayen fro London I wene and so dothe my mo-
 dyr

bearer hereof to my Mother this day for an answer, which answer he should bring to my Lord to London; for my Lord rode to London ward as yesterday, and the sooner because he trusted to have a good end of this matter and all others betwixt you, which he taketh for a great worship to him ward, and a great advantage both, and (*if*) he could bring this matter about, for then he would trust to have your service, all which were to him great treasure and advantage.

And this was the answer that my Mother and I gave him, that at the instance of my Lord and my Lady we would do thus much as for to put the Court in continuance, and no more to receive of the profits of the Manor than we had, and had distressed for, till into the time that she and I had word again from my Lord and you; if so were that they would neither make entries nor distrain the tenants, nor keep no Court more than we would do, and we told Richard Fulmerston that this my Mother and I did at the instance and great request of my Lord, because my Lord intended peace, which reasonably we would not be against, and yet we said we knew well that we should have no thank of you, when ye knew of it, without it were because we did it at my Lord's instance; but before this answer we had received as much silver, full nigh, as Richard Calle sent us books of, for to gather it by; and as for the possession of the place, we told him that we would keep it, and Sir Gilbert agreed, so that Yelverton and Jenney would do the same, for it was time for him to say so, for my Lord told him that he would set him fast by the feet else, to be sure of him, that he should make none insurrections into the time that my Lord came again from London.

I ween,

dyr bothe y^r thys appoyntment was mad in good tyme for I was defeyvyd of bettyr than an C men and an halfe y^r I had promyse of to haue Come to me when I sent for hem thys promes had I befor y^r I sent to yow the last lettyr the daye after seynt Myhell Ienney herd seye y^r I cepyd Cotton and he rod to Naſton and ther held a cort and receyvyd y^e profytys of the man^r I beſeche yow y^r I may haue knowlage in haſt fro yow how ye wyll y^r I be demenyd in thys mat^r and in al othyr and I ſchal aplye me to fulfyll you^r intent in them to my power by the grace of god whom I beſeche haue yow in guydyng and ſende yow yowyr herts deſyir Wretyn at Hemnalle Halle in Cotton the Thursday next befor Seynt Feythe.

My modyr recomandyth her to yow and preyith yow to hold hyr excuſyd that ſche wrytyth not to yow at thys tyme for ſche may haue no leyſer the berer her of ſhall informe yow whedyr Ieney wyll agre to thys Appoyntment or not J thynk he dar do non othyr wyſe.

Yo^r. ſone and lowly ſervūt,

John Paſton.

12 by 13.

Paper Mark,

A Coronet.

Pl. xxvi. N^o 2.

LE C

I ween, and so doth my Mother both, that this appointment was made in good time, for I was deceived of better than an hundred men and an half, that I had promise of to have come to me when I sent for them, this promise had I before that I sent to you the last Letter the day after Saint Michael. Jenney heard say that I kept Cotton, and he rode to Naſton, and there held a Court, and received the profits of the Manor.

I beſeech you that I may have knowledge in haſte from you how ye will that I be demeaned in this matter and in all others, and I ſhall apply me to fulfil your intent in them to my power by the grace of God, whom I beſeech have you in guiding, and ſend you your heart's deſire. Written at Hemnale's Hall, in Cotton, the Thurſday next before Saint Faith.

My Mother recommendeth her to you, and prayeth you to hold her excuſed that ſhe writeth not to you at this time, for ſhe may have no leiſure; the bearer hereof ſhall inform you, whether Jenney will agree to this appointment or not, I think he dare do none otherwiſe.

Your Son and lowly Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

Hemnales Hall,

Cotton, Suffolk,

Thurſday, October

E. IV.

Exact year uncertain, but in the beginning of E. IVth's Reign.

LET-

L E T T E R XXIII.

*To my Ryght Worchipfull
husbond Iohn Paston be thys
lett^r delyv'yd in hast.*

RIGHT Worcheppfull husbond I recōmand me to you please you to wet y^t I was at Norwic this wek to p'vey suche thyngs as nedythe me ageyns thys Wynt^r And I was at my modd^r and wille I was ther ther cam in on wrothe a Kynnyfman of Elyfabet Clers and he sey yo^r dowl^t and preysyd hyr to my mod^r and feyd y^t she was A goodly yong womā And my mod^r p'yd hym for to gett for hyr on good mariage yf he knewe any And he feyd he knewe on shuld be of a CCC mark be yer ye wyche is S^r John Cley Son that is Chamb^rleyn w^t my lady of York and he ys of Age of xvij yer old zyf ye thynk it be for to be spok of my mod^r thynkyth y^t it shuld be get for lesse mony nowe in thys world than it shuld be her aft^r owthyr y^t j or fū other good mariage It I spake w^t Mast^r John Estgate for Pekeynes mat^r aft^r yo^r entent of y^e mat^r of y^e lett^r y^t ye sent home and he feyd to me he shuld write to yow howe he had don ther in and so he sent you a lett^r y^e wyche was sent you be John Wodows man w^t other lett's as for answer other mater daubeney

From several of the Letters contained in these Volumes it appears that proposals for a marriage often originated from the Friends of the Lady, not that she had any prepossession in favour of the Gentleman, but because her Friends thought such a match might be proper in respect to worldly matters.

This seems to have been the case here, and the grandmother of the young Lady wishes the Friends of Sir John Cley to be spoken to on this subject, thinking that his Son's livelihood would be a sufficient one, and that a marriage might be concluded as times now go, (for that must be the meaning of the words "now in thys world") on reasonable terms; this marriage however never took effect.

tellythe

L E T T E R XXIV.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, please you to weet that I was at Norwich this week to purvey such things as needeth me against this winter ; and I was at my Mother's, and while I was there, there came in one Wrothe, a kinsman of Elizabeth Clere's and he sey (*saw*) your Daughter and praised her to my Mother, and said that she was a goodly young woman ; and my Mother prayed him for to get for her one good marriage if he knew any ; and he said he knew one (*that*) should be of a 300 marks (200*l.*) by year, the which is Sir John Cley's Son, that is Chamberlayn with my Lady of ¹ York, and he is of age of 18 years old ; if ye think it be for to be spoken of, my Mother thinks that it should be got for less money now in this world than it should be hereafter, either that one, or some other good marriage.

Item, I spake with master John Estgate for Pykering's matter after your intent of the matter of the Letter that ye sent home, and he said to me he should write to you how he had done therein, and so he sent you a Letter, the which was sent you by John ² Wodehouse's man with other Letters.

¹ Cecily, Duchess of York, widow of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and mother of Edward IV. She died in an advanced age, at her Castle of Berkhamstead, in May 1495, and was buried near her Husband, in the Choir of the Collegiate Church of Potheringhay, in Northamptonshire.

² John Wodehouse, Esq. of Kimberley, Son of the renowned John Wodehouse, Esq. who gained so much honour at the battle of Agincourt ; he died in 1465, and lies buried in Kimberley Chancel. The present Sir John Wodehouse of Kimberley, Bart. is the twelfth in lineal descent from this ancestor.

tellythe me he wret to you I be seche alle myghty god have you
in hys kepyng Wretyn at Cast' y^e Sonday next aft^r Seynt Mar-
teyne.

By yo^r

³ W. Paston.

12 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 20. Seal, Pl. xiv. N^o 4. A Fleur de Lys.

LETTER XXII.

*To my Cosyn Margret
Paston.*

MYN owne dere sou^reyn lady I recomaund me to yow and
thank yow of the gret chere y^t ye mad me here to my
gret cost and charge and labo^r no more at thys tyme but that I
pray yow ye woll send me hedir ij clue of ¹ Worsted for dob-
letts to happe me thys cold wynter and that ye inquire where
Will'm Paston bought his tepet of fyne worsted whech is almost
like filk and if that be mech fyner thaune y^t ye shuld bye me
after vij or viij^s thaune by me a q^rtr^e and the nayle therof for
colers thow it be derer thaune the tother for J wold make my
doblet all Worsted for Worship of Norff. rather thaune like
Gonnores doblot.

The various matter contained in this Letter makes it worthy the reader's notice; the references to the Receivers Accounts of Sir John Fastolf shew the regularity with which all money and other transactions were entered and kept. The concluding verses furnish us with a specimen of the familiar Poetry of the time.

It'm

As for answer (*of*) other matters, Daubeney telleth me he wrote to you. I beseech Almighty God have you in his keeping. Written at Caister, the Sunday next after Saint Martin.

By your

³ MARGARET PASTON.

Caister, Sunday, November

between 1461 and 1465. 1 and 5 E. IV

L E T T E R XXV.

To my Cousin Margaret Paston.

MINE own dear sovereign Lady, I recommend me to you, and thank you of the great cheer that ye made me here to my great cost and charge and labour. No more at this time, but that I pray you ye will send me hither two ells of ¹ worsted for Doublets, to happe me (*wrap me up warm*) this cold winter; and that ye enquire where William Paston bought his Tippet of fine worsted, which is almost like silk, and if that be much finer than that ye should buy me after seven or eight shillings, then buy me a quarter and the nail thereof for Collars, though it be dearer than the other, for I would make my doublet all worsted for worship of Norfolk, rather than like Gonner's doublet.

¹ Worsted is a small market-town in the most East part of the county of Norfolk, formerly famous for the manufacture of those stuffs which still bear its name, and of which, for the worship of Norfolk, J. Paston desired his Doublet might be made.

It'm as for the mater of the jx^{xx} li askyd by my lady of ² Bedford for the maner of Westthirrok where as S^r Thom' Howes faith that he hath no wrytyng therof but y^t S^r Iohn Fastolf purchased the seid maner and payd f^rteyn mony in Ernest and afterward gr[']untyd his bargeyn to the Duc of Bedford and so the mony y^t he toke was for the mony that he had payd p[']aventure S^r Thom' hath wrytyng therof and knowyth it not for if ther be any such mony payd upon any bargeyn he shall fynd it in Kyrtlyngs bocks y^t was S^r Iohn Fastolfs Reseyv^r and it was abought such tyme as the duc of Bedford was last in Ingland whech as it is told me was the viij yere of kyng herry the fift or the viij yere of kyng herry the sext and the somme that he payd for the seid bargeyn was CCC m[']rks Also he shall fynd the xxij yere of kyng Herry or ther abought in the acompts of on of Fastolfs Reseyvo's at london that ther was take of S^r Thom' Tyrell and of the ³ Duchesse of Excestre that was wif to S^r lowes Iohn Fermo's of the seid maner f^rteyn mony for repaymēt of part of the seid CCC m[']rk Also he shall fynd in yeres after y^t or in that yere or ther aboutes that S^r Iohn Fastolf reseved

² Jaquelina, daughter of Peter of Luxenburgh Earl of Saint Poul, was the second wife of John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford; she was married to him in 1433, and after his decease, in 1435, she became the wife of Sir Richard Wydvile and died in 1472.

³ This was most probably Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Neville, and widow of Thomas Beaufort Duke of Exeter; who was buried in the Abbey Church at Bury St. Edmund's. On digging amongst the ruins of this Abbey, the body of the Duke was found, on the 20th of February 1772, wrapt in lead, and entire.

The face, hair, and every part were perfect, and the flesh solid, but being exposed to the air, the body soon became offensive.

mony

Item, as for the matter of the nine score pounds asked by my Lady of ² Bedford for the manor of West Thurrok, whereas Sir Thomas Howys saith that he hath no writing thereof, but that Sir John Fastolf purchaseth the said manor, and paid certain money in earnest, and afterwards granted his bargain to the Duke of Bedford, and so the money that he took was for the money that he had paid; peradventure Sir Thomas Howys hath writing thereof, and knoweth it not; for if there be any such money paid upon any bargain he shall find it in Kyrting's books that was Sir John Fastolf's Receiver, and it was about such time as the Duke of Bedford was last in England, which, as it is told me, was the 8th year of King Harry V. (1420,) or the 8th year of King Harry VI. (1429), and the sum that he paid for the said bargain was 300 marks (200l.) Also, he shall find the 22d year of King Harry (VI.) or there about (1443), in the accounts of one of Fastolf's Receivers at London, that there was taken of Sir Thomas Tyrell, and of the Duchesse of ³ Exeter, that was wife to Sir Lewis Johnes, Farmer of the said manor, certain money for repayment of part of the said 300 marks. Also he shall find in years after that, or that year, or there-

I am sorry to add, that, for want of proper attention, the body was indecently thrown out of its leaden repository (which was sold by the workmen for its value by weight), and tumbled into the ground, where it remained till the next day, when, at the expence of some neighbouring gentlemen, an oaken coffin was procured, in which the remains were decently deposited, and interred near the spot where they were originally discovered.

I procured some of the hair, which was of a fine brown colour, and very flexible.

abouts

mony of my lord ⁴ Revers y^t now is by the name of Richard Wydevile for his owne dette dew to S^r John Fastolf Wherefore if S^r Thom' be trewe to his Master lete hym do his devoir to make y^t Worfeter which is uphold be hym w^t the deds goods to be trewe to his master or ellis it is tyme for S^r Thom' to forsake hym and helpe to punyssh hym or mē mast sey that S^r Thom' is not trewe and more ouer lete S^r Thom' examiē what he can fynd in this mater that I sent hym werd of whech mater he shall fynd in the seid Reseyvo^s bocks if he list to seke it.

Itm, on the day after yo^r dep^tying I reseived letters by Will Ros from yo^r sones to me and to yow and to Ric Calle &c.

It' I shall telle you a tale Pampyng and I have picked your ⁵ male and taken out ⁶ pesis v for upon trust of Calles p^mise we may sone onthryve and if Calle bryng us hedir xx li ye shall have yo^r pesis ayen good and round or ellis if he woll not pay yow the valew of the pesis there to the post do nayle his ere or ellis do hym some other wrongs for I will no more in his default borough and but if the reseivyng of my livelod be better plyed ⁷ he shall Cristis ours and mine clene tryed and loke ye be mery and take no thought for thys ryme is cūnyngly wrought

⁴ Sir Richard Wydvile, in 1448, was created Baron Rivers of Grafton in Northamptonshire, and elected a Knight of the Garter. His daughter Elizabeth afterwards became the Queen of Edward IV. who then advanced her father to the dignity of Earl Rivers. He was seized by the Lancaster mutineers, and beheaded at Banbury, in 1469.

abouts that Sir John Fastolf received money of my Lord ⁴ Rivers that now is, by the name of Richard Wydvile, for his own debt due to Sir John Fastolf; wherefore, if Sir Thomas be true to his master, let him do his devoir to make that Worcester, which is upheld by him with the dead's goods, be true to his master, or else it is time for Sir Thomas to forsake him, and help to punish him, or men must say that Sir Thomas is not true; and moreover let Sir Thomas examine what he can find in this matter that I sent him word of, which matter he shall find in the said receiver's book, if he list to seek it.

Item, on the day after your departing, I received letters by William Roos from your sons to me, and to you, and to Richard Calle, &c.

Item, I shall tell you a tale,
 Pampyng and I have picked your ⁵ male
 And taken out ⁶ Pieces five,
 For upon trust of Calle's promise, we may soon unthrive,
 And, if Calle bring us hither twenty pound,
 Ye shall have your pieces again, good and round;
 Or else, if he will not pay you the value of the pieces, there
 To the post do nail his ear,
 Or else do him some other wrongs,
 For I will no more in his default borrow;
 And but if (*unless*) the receiving of my livelihood be better plied
⁷ He shall Christ's hour and mine clean tried;
 And look ye be merry and take no thought,
 For this rhyme is cunningly wrought.

⁵ Male, or Mail, is a trunk or portmanteau. It is to be observed, that in the original Letter the verses do not finish the line but are written as prose.

⁶ Pieces of money.

⁷ I do not understand this line.

My

my Lord ⁸ Perfy and all this house recomaund them to yow
dogge catte and mowse and wyfshe ye had be here stille for the
fey ye are a good ⁹ gille no more to you at this tyme but God
hym save y^t mad this ryme wret ye of sent mathe by yowr
trew and trustie husband.

I. P.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

An Anchor,

Pl. XXII. N^o 12.

⁸ This must be Henry Lord Percy, son and heir of Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland, who was killed at the battle of Towton, in 1461, by Ellenor, grand-daughter and heir of Robert Lord Poynings.

His father having been attainted he continued to be called Lord Percy; but in 1472 was fully restored both in blood and title, the attainder of his father being made void. He was murdered by a tumultuous mob in Yorkshire, in 1488.

L E T T E R XXIII.

To myn Welbeloued frende

S^r Thom's Howys pr'son

of Blofeld.

WELBELOUED Frende I grete you well And for as
muche as I understonde that Williaz Wurcest^r late the
f^v'nt unto S^r John Fastolf Knyth whois soule God assoyle ys not
had in fauo^r ne trust w^t my right welbeloued frende John Paston
nether w^t you as he seyth Namely in such maters and causes as
concerneth the wyllle and testament of the said S^r John Fastolf.

And

My Lord ⁸ Percy and all this house
 Recommend them to you, dog, cat and mouse,
 And wish ye had been here still,
 For they say ye are a good ⁹ gill.
 No more to you at this time,
 But God him save that made this rhyme.
 Written the of Saint Mathe,
 By your true and trusty husband J. P.

February,

Between 1461 and 1465.

1 and 5 E. IV.

⁹ An agreeable companion.

The exact date of this Letter cannot be ascertained.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N^o 6.

L E T T E R XXVI.

To mine wellbeloved Friend Sir Thomas Howys, Parson of Blofield.

WELLBELOVED Friend I greet you well, and for as
 much as I understand that William Worcelter, late the
 servant unto Sir John Fastolf, knight, whose foul God affoil,
 is not had in favour nor trust with my right wellbeloved friend
 John Paston, neither with you, as he saith, namely in such
 matters and causes as concerneth the will and testament of the

VOL. IV.

O

said

And as J am informed the said Williaz p'pofeth hym to go into his Cuntr' for the whiche cause he hath desired me to wryte unto you that ye wolde ben a special good frend unto hym for his said mastris sake to haue alle fuche things as reason and consciens req'reth And that ye wolde be meane vnto Paston for hym in this mater to schewe hym the more fauo^r at thys tyme for this my writyng in doying of eny truble to hym trusting that he wole demeane hym in fuche wyse that he shal haue no cause unto hym but to be his good mast^r as he seyth And yf ther be eny thing that I can do for you I wole be right glad to do it And that knoweth Almyghty god whiche haue you in his keping Wretin at Grenewyche the xxviiith day of August.

J. Beauchamp.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Though this friendly Letter contains nothing curious, yet being written by a nobleman famous for his military exploits and for services rendered to his Sovereigns, I have been induced to give it.

TEC=

saïd Sir John Fastolf; and as I am informed the saïd William purposeth him to go into his country, for the which cause he hath desired me to write unto you that ye would be a special good friend unto him, for his saïd Master's sake, to have all such things as reason and conscience requireth, and that ye would be (a) mean unto Paston for him in this matter, to shew him the more favour at this time, for this my writing, in doing of any trouble to him trusting that he will demean him in such wise that he shall have no cause unto him, but to be his good master, as he saith, and if there be any thing that I can do for you, I will be right glad to do it, and that knoweth Almighty God, which have you in his keeping. Written at Greenwich, the 28th day of August.

J. BEAUCHAMP.

Greenwich,

28th of August,

between 1461 and 1466.

1 and 6 E. IV.

John Beauchamp, Lord Beauchamp of Powyk, in Worcestershire, was so created in 1447. In 1450 he was appointed Lord Treasurer, and became a Knight of the Garter. He died in 1475, 15 E. IV. and was buried in the Church of the Dominican Friars at Worcester.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N° 2.

O 2

LET-

LETTER XXIII.

*To my trusty and welbelowyd
Cosyn Iho' Paston esquier in
haste.*

Loyawlte Ayme.

Be zowr howne

G. Browne.

Hyt schal newyr Cum howt ffor me.

8 ½ by 7.

Sir George Browne, knight, of Beechworth Castle, in Surrey, was the second husband of Elizabeth, the Sister of J. Paston, and widow of Robert Poynings; this short Letter was therefore most probably written by him to J. Paston, in the beginning of Edward

LETTER XXIII.

*To my ryght wurschipfull
Fadre Iohn Paston.*

PLESIT you to wete that I am at Leyn And vnder stande be dyv's p'sonys as I am in formed y^e y^e Mayster of Carbroke wold take a rewle in the Mar' Talbot as for capteyn And

We have here a Letter written by John Paston to his father, from Lynn in Norfolk, at a time when, by the King's command, he was to convey Soldiers from thence to Yarmouth on ship board, I suppose for foreign service. It appears from hence, likewise, that the Soldiers wore the Livery of those who retained them.

L E T T E R XXVII.

To my trusty and well-beloved Cousin John Paston, Esq. in haste.

Loyawlte Ayme.

(Love Loyalty.)

By your own

G. BROWNE.

It shall never come out for me.

Written most probably
between 1461 and 1466.
1 and 6 E. IV.

Edward IVth's reign; it recommends in a friendly manner to him loyalty to the Prince upon the Throne, and seems to hint at some actions of J. Paston's done contrary thereto, which had come to Sir George's knowledge, and which he would not disclose.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N^o 9.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To my right worshipful Father, John Paston.

PLEASE you to weet that I am at Lynn, and understand by divers persons, as I am informed, that the ¹ Master of Carbrooke would take a rule in the Mary Talbot as for Captain, and

¹ The Master of Carbrooke, I believe means the Master of the Commandry of Carbrooke in Norfolk, formerly a Society of Knights Templars, and the only one in the county, who were bound to go on Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, either as religious Devotees, or as Soldiers to fight against the Infidels.

to yeue Iaketes of his lev'y to dyv's p'fonis qwych be waged be
oder mē And nouth be hym beyng in the said shep qwerfor
in as moch as I haue but few fowdeors in myn lev'y her to
strenketh me in yat qwych is the Kynges Cōmandement I kepe
w^t me yowr too mē Dawbenney and Calle qwich I purpose shall
seyle w^t me to Yermeth for I have purueyed harneyse for hem
and y^e shall well underfande be y^e grace of god yat the said
mayster of Carbroke shall have non rewle in the sheppes as ² I
had puposid he shuld have had because of his besynesse and for
this is on of the specyall causes I kepe yowr said mē w^t me be-
fechyng you y^e takyt to non dysples' of ther taryng w^t me nat
w^tstandyng yer ³ herdē at Wyggenalle shall be don this Day be
the grace of God whoo have you in kepyng wretē at Leyn the
morow after my dep^rtyng from you.

It' as far fuch tydynges as be her
Th' shall in forme you.

⁴ John Paston.

12 by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Seal,

A Stag couchant.

Pl. xxviii. N^o 4.

² It appears that in this case the Master was subordinate to J. Paston, and under his command.

LET.

to give Jackets of his Livery to divers persons which be waged by other men, and not by him, being in the said ship; wherefore in as much as I have but few Soldiers in mine Livery here, to strengthen me in that which is the King's Commandment, I keep with me your two men Dawbeney and Calle, which I purpose shall sail with me to Yarmouth, for I have purveyed harness for them, and ye shall well understand by the grace of God, that the said Master of Carbrooke shall have none rule in the Ships, as ² I had purposed he should have had, because of his business and for this is one of the special causes I keep your said men with me, beseeching you ye take it to none displeasure with me, notwithstanding their herden ³ at Wygenhall shall be done this day by the grace of God who have you in his keeping. Written at Lynn, the morrow after my departing from you.

Item, as for such tidings as be here

Th. shall inform you.

* JOHN PASTON.

Written between

1461 and 1466.

1 and 6 E. IV.

³ I do not understand the meaning of the word herden.

This Letter was written between 1461 and 1466.

* Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

LET-

L E T T E R XXX.

*To my right Worchefull
Mastres Paston.*

I Recomawnde me to yo^r good Mastreschep besechyng yow in y^e weye of Charyte and as I maye be yo^r bedeman and serv^{nt} y^t ye wyll lete me haue wetyng hoghe I maye be rewelyd ageyns y^e nest Schyer it is seyde y^t ther xal be mych more pepyll than was y^e last and also if I be in my ladys place or in ony oyr in y^e town I xall be takyn owte also mastres y^t my Maystyr Radclyffs xal take all my catell and all oyr pore good y^t I haue and so but I maye haue helpe of my Mayst^r and of yow I am but lost Also my serv^{nt} Maryot wyll go fro my wyfe to my ryght gret hurte Wherefore Mastres I besech yo^r help in all thes and I xal content y^e Costs as ye xall be plesyd be y^e g^{ce} of God hoo eu^r p^{serve} yow &c. Also Mastres I can not be w^t owte yo^u cⁿt^yall help but I must felle or lete to ferme all y^t I haue Mastres my lady sent to Cawnbrygg for a Docto^r of Fesyk if y^e wyll ony thyng w^t hym he xal abyde y^{is} daye and to morwe he is ryght a konnyng man and gentyll.

¶ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

As this Letter has no subscription, the writer cannot be ascertained, though it appears to be written by one who had some concern at the county court, where election, or other county disputes, seemed to be expected to come on.

L E T -

L E T T E R XXIX.

To my right worshipful Mistress Paston.

I Recommend me to your good Mistressship, beseeching you in the way of charity, and as I may be your beadsman and servant, that ye will let me have weeting how I may be ruled against the next shire; it is said that there shall be much more people than were the last; and also if I be in my Lady's place or in any other in the town, I shall be taken out. Also Mistress that my Master Radcliff shall take all my catell (*chattels*) and all other poor good that I have, and so but (*unless*) I may have help of my Master and of you, I am but lost. Also my servant Maryot will go from my wife to my right great hurt, wherefore Mistress I beseech your help in all these, and I shall content the costs as ye shall be pleased by the grace of God, who ever preserve you, &c.

Also Mistress I cannot be without your continual help, but I must sell or let to farm all that I have.

Mistress my Lady sent to Cambridge for a Doctor of Physic, if ye will any thing with him, he shall abide this day and tomorrow, he is right a cunning (*skillful*) man, and a gentle.

Written

Between 1461 and 1466.

1 and 6 E. IV.

He was probably a retainer of some great man or lady, whose interest he was to support.

The being obliged to send as far as Cambridge for a Physician must have been both troublesome and expensive.

L E T T E R ¶¶¶.

*To my right wurchepfull
husband John Paston.*

RIGHT Wurchepfull husbond I recomaund me to you
Please it you to wete that myn Awnte is dissesid whos
fowle god asfoyll And if it please you to send word how ye wull
y^t we do for the liffode that she had at Walcote whed^r ye wull
y^t any body take possession thir in yo^r name or not And if it
like you to haue w^t you my Cosyn William her sone I trow ye
shuld fynde hym a necessary man to take hede to yowr howshold
and to bye all man^r of stufte nedefull y^to and to se to y^e rewle
and gode gidyn y^of it hath be told me be for y^t he can gode
skill of such thyngs And if ye wull y^t I send for hym and speke
w^t hym ther of I shall do as ye send me word for in feyth it is
tyme to crone yo^r old officers for diu^rse thyngs wher of I haue
know p^rte be Dawbeney and more I shall telle you whan ye
Come hame Also it is thought be my Cosyn Elifabeth Clere
and y^e viker and other y^t be yo^r frends that it is right necessary
for you to haue Hew of Fen to be yo^r frende in yo^r maters for
he is callid right feythfull and trosty to his frends y^t trost hym
And it is reported her he may do myche w^t the Kyng and y^e
lords And it is seid y^t he may do myche w^t hem y^t be yo^r adu^r-
saryes And y^ofor godds sake if ye may haue his gode wille

As it is always best to have the characters of the writers of these Letters from their contemporaries, I have given this Letter as furnishing us with that of Hugh Fenn.

The mention of pewter vessel shews us what was then fashionable; and the aunt here mentioned I believe was a Berney.

L E T T E R XXX.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Husband I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that mine Aunt is deceased, whose soul God assoil, and if it please you to send word how ye will that we do for the livelihood that she had at Walcot, whither ye will that any body take possession there in your name or not, and if it like you to have with you my cousin William her son, I trow ye should find him a necessary man to take heed to your household, and to buy all manner of stuff needful thereto, and to see to the rule and good guiding thereof, it hath been told me before that he can good skill of such things, and if ye will that I send for him, and speak with him thereof, I shall do as ye send me word, for in faith it is time to crone your old officers for divers things whereof I have known part by Dawbeney, and more I shall tell you when ye come home.

Also it is thought by my Cousin Elizabeth Clere, and the vicar, and others, that be your friends, that it is right necessary for you to have Hew (*Hugh*) of Fenn to be your friend in your matters, for he is called right faithful and trusty to his friends that trust him, and as it is reported here, he may do much with the King and the Lords; and it is said that he may do much with them that be your adversaries, and therefore for God's sake,

This Letter appears to have been written after the decease of Sir John Fastolf, and in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

forfake it not Also it is thought the more lerned men that ye haue of yo^r owyn Contre of yo^r Councell The more wurchepful it is to you.

Also if ye be at home this Cristmes it wer wele do ye shuld do p^ruey a Garnyshe or tweyn of Powt^r vesshell ij basanes and ij hewers and xij Candlestikes for ye have to few of any of thes to f^rue this place I am a ferd to p^rvey mych stufte in this place till we be fuerrer y^rof.

The bliffid T^rnyte haue you in his bliffid kepyng Wretyn the Thursday next aft^r sent Andrew.

Be yow^r

ms. p.

11 1/2 by 8 1/2

L E T T E R XXXI.

*To my Right Worchipfull
Sr And my Right good Neveu
Iohn Paston squyer be this l^re
delyv^red &c.*

RIGHT worchipfull Sr And my Right good Neveu I re-
comand me un to you w^t all myn herte p^lece it you to
undyrstande the grete nessefste of my Wrytyng to you is this
that ther was made an exchaunge be the Graunfyre of my hof-
bonds Mundeford un hose fowle god have mercy of the maner

if ye may have his good will, forsake it not ; also it is thought the more learned men ye have of your own country of your counsel, the more worshipful it is to you.

Also, if ye be at home this Christmas, it were well done ye should do purvey a garnish or twain of pewter vessel, two basins and two ewers, and twelve candlesticks, for ye have too few of any of these to serve this place ; I am afraid to purvey much stuff in this place till we be surer thereof. The blessed Trinity have you in his blessed keeping. Written the Thursday next after Saint Andrew

By your

MARGARET PASTON.

Thursday, December

between 1461 and 1466.

1 and 6 E. IV,

L E T T E R XXXI.

To my right worshipful Sir, and my right good Nephew, John Paston, Esq. be this Letter delivered, &c.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, and my right good Nephew, I commend me unto you with all mine heart ; please it you to understand the great necessity of my writing to you is this, that there was made an exchange by the Grandfire of my husband Mundeford, on whose soul God have mercy ! of the manor
of

of Gressenale wth the Aunsetrys of Rows for the maner of Estlexham the qwyche is parte of my juntor and my Grauntfadyr Mundeford recoweryd the said maner of Estlexham be ¹ Affyze A geyne the Aunsetrys of Rows And so madyt clere And now have Edm^r ² Rows claymyt the seyde maner of Estlexham be the verteu of a taylor And hath takyn possession And made a feoffment to my lord of ³ Warewyke and Water ⁴ Gorge and to ⁵ Curde And on Fryday be for seynt Walentyne is day Water Gorge And Curde enteryd And toke possession for my seyde lord of Warewyke And so bothe the forseyde manerys were ontayled And at the tyme of the exchange made the taylor And Evidens of bothe forseyde manerys were delyv^{ed} un to the parties indeferently be the avyse of men lernyd qwerfor I beshech you that it please you to take the grete labor upon you to informe my lordys good lordchep of the trowthe in the forme A bowyn Wretren And that it please you to vnderstand qwedyr that my lord wyll abyde be the feoffment made to hym or not And that it shall please my lord that I may haue Right as lawe requeryt for I trust to God be soche tyme as my lord shall be informyd of the trowthe be you that hese lordchip wyll not supportt the forseyde Rows A geyne my Right And if I hadde very vnderstandyng that my lord would take no parte in the mat^r A bowe seyde I would trust to godd's mercy And to you And other of my good fryndes to

We have here a curious instance of a Person illegally recovering an estate by making a great man a party in the proceedings, for such manifestly appears to have been the case here, where Rous takes possession of the Manor of East Lexham, and then makes a feoffment of it to the Earl of Warwick, thinking that no one would dare to dispute his title when sanctioned by this Nobleman.

¹ Affize is a Writ directed to the Sheriff of the county for recovery of the possession of things immoveable, whereof yourself or Ancestors have been dispossessed.

haue

of Gressenhall with the Ancestors of Rous for the manor of East Lexham, the which is part of my jointure, and my Grandfather Mundeford recovered the said manor of East Lexham by ² Affize against the Ancestors of Rous, and so made it clear; and now have Edmund ² Rous claimed the said manor of East Lexham by the virtue of a tail (*an entail*), and hath taken possession, and made a feoffment to my Lord of ³ Warwick, and Walter ⁴ Gorge, and to ⁵ Curde; and on Friday before Saint Valentine's day Walter Gorge and Curde entered and took possession for my said Lord of Warwick, and so both the foresaid manors were untailed; and at the same time of the exchange made, the tails and evidence of both (*the*) foresaid manors were delivered unto the parties indifferently by the advice of men learned; wherefore I beseech you that it please you to take the great labour upon you to inform my Lord's good Lordship of the truth in the form above written, and that it please you to understand, whether that my Lord will abide by the feoffment made to him or not, and that it shall please my Lord that I may have right, as law require it, for I trust to God by such time as my Lord shall be informed of the truth by you, that his Lordship will not support the foresaid Rous against my right; and if I had very understanding that my Lord would take no part in the matter abovesaid, I would trust to God's mercy, and to you, and other of my good friends to have possession again in

² Edmund Rous was second son of Henry Rous, Esq. of Dennington, in Suffolk, the Ancestor of the present family, which had the title of Baronet conferred upon the head of it in 1660.

³ Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

⁴ Walter Gorges, Esq. married Mary the daughter and heir of Sir William Oldhall, and was at this time Lord of the Manor of Oldhall, in Great Fransham; he died in 1466. His son and heir, Sir Edmund Gorges, afterwards married a daughter of Sir John Howard, Knight, the first Duke of Norfolk of that family.

⁵ John Curde was Lord of the Manor of Curde's hall, in Fransham.

haue possession A geyne in Right hasty tyme beshechyng you to p'don me of my symple Wrytyng for hadde no leyser Right Worchipfull And my Right good Neveu I beshech the blyssed Trenyte haue you in hese gracyous kepyng Wreten at Norwych in grete hast the Tewysday next after seynt Walentyne is day.

Youze ovyn,

⁶ Elizabeth

Mundeford.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. viii. N^o 2.

⁶ Elizabeth Mundeford was the widow of Olbert Mundeford, Esq. of Hockwold, in Norfolk, and was daughter of John Berney, Esq. by which means she was aunt to J. Paston. Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 43.

LETTER XXXII.

*To the right rev^{er}ent and
worshipfull Sr my right
hono^rable Maystyr Iohn
Paston.*

RIGHT w^{or}shipfull Sr and my right hono^rable Maistir I re-
comaunde me to you in my most humble wise And plese
it youre good maistirshyp to wete that it is seyde here that my
lord w^{or}cestre is lyk to be tresorer w^{or} whom I truste ye stonde
right wel in conseit w^{or} whiche god contynwe wherfor I beseke
youre maistirshipp that if my seid lord have the seid office that it
lyke

right hasty time, beseeching you to pardon me of my simple writing for (I) had no leifure; Right worshipful and my right good Nephew I beseech the blessed Trinity have you in his gracious keeping. Written at Norwich in great haste the Tuesday next after Saint Valentine's day.

Your own,

⁶ ELIZABETH MUNDEFORD.

Norwich,

Tuesday, February,

Between 1461 and 1466.

1 and 6 E. IV.

This Letter was written between 1461 and 1466, but the exact year cannot be ascertained.

L E T T E R XXXII.

To the right reverend and worshipful Sir, my right honourable Master, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, and my right honourable Master, I recommend me to you in my most humble wife, and please it your good mastership to weet, that it is said here, that my Lord Worcester is like to be Treasurer, with whom I trust ye stand right well in conceit, with which God continue; wherefore I beseech your mastership that if my said Lord have the said

VOL. IV.

Q

office,

lyke you to desyre the nomynacion of on of the officez eythyr of the countroller or S^r.chorship of Iernemuth for a s^rvaunt of yowrez and I shuld so gyde me in the office as I truste shuld be most p^rfit to my seyde lord and if yo^re maistyrshyp lyked to gete graunt thereof that than it plesyd you to lycense on of yo^re s^rvaunts to take out the patent of the seyde office and if it cost v or vj or viij marke I shal trewly contente it ageyn and yeerly as longe as I myght have the officez or any of hem I shal geve my maist^r youre Sone V m^rrke toward an Haukeney it shuld be to me right a good mean to stondyn as well in the trust as in the Confeyt amongs marchaunts w^t whom and w^t alle men I calle myself a s^rvaunt of yo^re and soo wil do if it plese you which boldyth me the more to calle upon youre right wurshipful maistyrshyp in this mater where in I beseke you to forgeve me my boldneyse in thys behalve And if I knew that my lord shuld haue the office in s^rtayn than I wold wayte upon youre good maystyrshyp there to opteyne the patent if it plesyd youre good maystyrshyp to gete me the graunt &c. No more on to you my right hono^rable maist^r at thys tyme but Ihu I beseke sende you a good Conclucyon in all yore maters and graunt you ev^r yo^re herts desyre.

Yore contynwal S^rvaunt and bedeman,

John Russe.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7.

Seal,

A Crofs Flory.

Pl. XIV. N^o 21.

This Letter contains a curious circumstance, it shews us a person petitioning for a place and promising, if he should be successful, he would make the Son of the person, through whose interest he obtained it, an annual present of five marks.

office, that it like you to desire the nomination of one of the offices, either of the Controuller or Searchership of Yarmouth for a servant of yours ; and I should so guide me in the office as I trust should be most profit to my said Lord ; and if your mastership liked to get grant thereof, that then it please you to licence one of your servants to take out the patent of the said office, and if it cost five, or six, or eight Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* or 4*l.* or 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) I shall truly content it again ; and yearly as long as I might have the offices, or any of them, I shall give my master your son five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) toward an Hackney (*a pacing horse*).

It should be to me right a good mean to stand as well in the trust as in the conceit amongst merchants, with whom and with all men, I call myself a servant of yours, and so will do, if it please you, which boldeth (*emboldens*) me the more to call upon your worshipful mastership in this matter, wherein I beseech you to forgive me my boldness in this behalf. And if I knew that my Lord should have the office in certain then I would wait upon your good mastership there to obtain the patent, if it pleased your good mastership to get me the grant, &c.

No more unto you my right honourable master at this time, but Jesu I beseech send you a good conclusion in all your matters, and grant you ever your heart's desire.

Your continual Servant and Beadsman,

JOHN RUSSE.

1462. 2 E. IV.

May we not compare this transaction with those of modern times ? John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, was appointed Lord Treasurer in 1462, which office he had also before held in the late King's reign. On the re-accession of Henry VI. he was taken prisoner, unjustly accused of cruelty, convicted, and in October 1470 beheaded.

Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 18.

Q 2

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

MOST worchepfull and my ryght specyall good modyr as humbylly as I can I recomand me on to yow besechyng yow of you^r blyssyng please it yow to vnderstand that thys day I spake w^t bacheler Water whiche let me haue vnderstandyng of yo^r welfare wherof I thank god w^t all my hert, Also he leet me haue knowlage that the lord Scalys had g^untyd yow to be my good lord wherof I am no thynge proud for he may do leest w^t the gret Mastyr but he wold depert ovyr the See as hastily as he may and because he wenyth that J wold go w^t hym as I had promysyd hym euyr and he had kept foorth the hys Iornay at that tyme thys is the cause that he wyll be my good lord and help to get my pardon the Kyng is not best pleasyd w^t hym for that he desyerthe to depert In so myche that the Kyng hathe seyde of hym that wen evyr he hathe most to do then the lord Scalys wyll sonest axe leve to depert and weenyth that it is most be
cause

This Letter was most probably written early in the reign of Edward IV. but in what year I cannot easily determine.

The Pardon of J. Paston here mentioned must have reference to the late change of the Government, and the restlessness of the Scotch and Welsh alludes to the time when Queen Margaret was soliciting their assistance, I believe.

The reflections here thrown upon the courage of Lord Scales are new and I should think not well founded, as his character has ever been handed down to us, as that of a Nobleman highly distinguished for deeds of arms, not only against the enemies of his country, but in the gallant feats of chivalry; yet we have the authority of the King for the insinuation here thrown out by J. Paston.

There

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To Mistress Margaret Paston.

MOST worshipful and my most special good Mother, as humbly as I can, I recommend me unto you, beseeching you of your blessing; please it you to understand that this day I spake with Batchelor Water which let me have understanding of your welfare, whereof I thank God with all my heart; also he let me have knowledge that the Lord Scales had granted you to be my good Lord, whereof I am nothing proud for he may do least with the great master, but he would depart over the sea, as hastily as he may, and because he weeneth that I would go with him as I had promised him ever, and he had kept forth his journey at that time; this is the cause that he will be my good Lord and help to get my pardon; the King is not best pleased with him for that he desireth to depart, in so much that the King hath said of him, that whensoever he hath most to do then the Lord Scales will surest ask leave to depart, and weeneth that it is most because of cowardice.

There was, however, at this time some disagreement between these spirited young men, which soon subsided; and my Lord Scales afterwards became his warm friend and advocate.

We must, therefore, make some allowance for the asperity of the expressions here recorded, and consider them as the hasty words of a young man uttered in a moment of anger. Anthony Widville was summoned to parliament as Lord Scales in 1461, and by the death of his father in 1469 became Earl Rivers; this Letter, therefore, must have been written between those years, if my former supposition should be wrong.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 10.

As

cause of Kowardyese as for pardon I can neu^r get w^t owght J
 schold paye to myche money for it and J am not so p^rveyd as
 for Herry Hallman my Brodyr wyll axe hym no sylver tyll ye
 be payeyd therfor ye may send to hym and haue it It' I am
 fory that ye have fadyrd my hors y^t was at Caster to be my
 Brodyr Edmundys for I had leveer y^t they had hym stile then
 owght ellys Wherfor thow they profyr hym yow fro hense
 foorth let not my brodyr Edmūd take hym but let hym sey
 whedyr they wyll let hym haue hym or not that I haue promy-
 seyde my brodyr Edmūd a bettyr hors for hym so that he wyll
 not cleyme the same for hys As for tydyngs her be non but y^t
 the Scottys and Walyshe men be besy what they meane I can
 not seye my Cosyn Iohn Loveday can tell yow and ther be eny
 odyr flyeyng talys for he hathe walkyd in london and so do not
 I when I may J wyll com hom w^t godys grace whom I besече
 to sende you yo^r hertys desyeyr Wretyn the v daye of Iulle.

By yo^r humblest sone and servāt

J. P.

Paper Mark,
 A Pillar.
 Pl. xxvii. N^o 5.

LET

As for pardon I can never get, without I should pay too much money for it, and I am not so purveyed.

As for Harry Halman my brother will ask him no silver till ye be paid, therefore ye may send to him and have it.

Item, I am sorry that ye have fadyrd (*fathered*) my horse that was at Caister to be my brother Edmund's, for I had lever (*rather*) that they had him still than ought else, wherefore though they proffer him you from henceforth let not my brother Edmund take him, but let him say, whether they will let him have him or not, that I have promised my brother Edmund a better horse for him, so that he will not claim the same for his.

As for tidings here be none but that the Scots and Welsh men be busy, what they mean I cannot say, my cousin John Loveday can tell you and there be any other flying tales, for he hath walked in London and so do not I, when I may I will come home with God's grace, whom I beseech to send you your heart's desire. Written the 5th day of July,

By your humblest Son and Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

5 July, between 1461 and 1469.
1 and 9 E. IV.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXIII.

*To the right w^rshipful
my right honorabyl mayst^r
Iohn Paston.*

RIGHT w^rshipfull S^r and my right hono^rabill mai^r I re-
comaund me to you jn my most humble wyse and please
your mai^rship to wete that here is on Thom's Chapman an
evyl disposyd man al wey ayens you as I haue Jnformyd yo're
maistirship many tymes and now he hathē labo'ryd to my lord
Tresorer to subplante me and brought down wryghting from the
Kyng and my lord Tresorer but or hise wryting cam Wydwell
fond the meanys be the supportacion of Mai^r Feen that we had
a discharge for hym out of the Chauncery Wherfor the feyd
Chapman p'posyth to be at London in all haste and to av'tise the
Kyng and my Lord Tresorer ageyn me to the grettest hurt the
can Imagyne wherfor I beseke yo're maystirship confedryng is
evyl disposicion to yow and also the rather at my pore Instaunce
that ye lyke that my lord Tresorer myght undyrstonde that he
seyd Chapman is of no reputacion but evyl disposyd to brybory
of Straungers and be colour of hise office of sup^rvisor of the
f'che shal gretly hurte the port the feyd Chapman supporters is
Blakeney clerk of the sygnet and Au'ey Cornburght yoman of
the Kyng's Chau'bre he hathe here of Au'eyes xxiiij Tune wyn

'The date of this Letter cannot be exactly ascertained; it must have been written after the preceding one, as J. Ruffe seems now to be in office at Yarmouth. He speaks freely of Chapman, and as freely tells J. Paston of the common voice against him.

I have given this Letter for the strictures it contains on the character of J. Paston, and to shew the anxiety of the Writer of it, for the good of his Master.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

To the right worshipful my right honourable Master John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, and my right honourable Master, I recommend me to you in my most humble wife, and please your mastership to weet, that here is one Thomas Chapman, an evil disposed man alway against you, as I have informed your mastership many times, and now he hath laboured to my Lord Treasurer to supplant me, and (*hath*) brought down writing from the King and my Lord Treasurer; but, ere his writing came, Wydeville found the means, by the supportation of Master Fenn, that we had a discharge for him out of Chancery; wherefore the said Chapman proposeth to be at London in all haste, and to advertise the King and my Lord Treasurer against me, to the greatest hurt he can imagine: wherefore I beseech your mastership considering his evil disposition to you, and also the rather at my poor instance, that ye like that my Lord Treasurer might understand that the said Chapman is of no reputation, but evil disposed to bribery of Strangers, and by colour of his office of Supervisor of the Search shall greatly hurt the Port; the said Chapman's supporters is Blakeney, Clerk of the Signet, and Avery Cornburgh, Yeoman of the King's Chamber; he hath here of

Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 18. Seal. Pl. xiv. N^o 21.

Master Fenn, here mentioned, appears to have been a Lawyer of eminence, and was a person in great confidence with J. Paston, &c. as may be collected from several of the Letters in this collection.

whereof at the long wey he shal make the feyd Au'ey a lewd re-kenyng the feyd Chapman lounth not you nor no man to yow wards &c. S^r I prey god brynge you onys to regne amongs youre cuntre men in love and to be dred the lenger ye contynwe there the more hurt growyth to you men fey ye will neyther folwe the avyse of youre owyn kynred nor of youre Counsell but contynwe your owyn wylfullnesse whiche but grace be shal be youre distrucion it is my part to enfo^rme youre maistirshyp as the Comown voyse is god betir it and graunt yow onys herts ease for it is half a deth to me to here the gen^rall voyse of the pepyll whiche dayli encreassyth &c. S^r I beseke youre maistirshyp to remēbre my maystresse for the lytil sylvir whiche for f^rteyn thyngs delyv^rid to youre use is dewe to me J haue nede of it now I haue bought salt and other thyngs whiche hathe brought me out of myche sylvir I wold trust and I nedyd to borwe xx li. yo^re maist^rshyp wold ease me for a tyme but thys that I desyre is myn owyn dute and Jhu graunt yow ev^r yow^r herts desyre to yo^re w^rshyp and profyt and p^rs^rve yow my right hono^rabyll maist^r from all adv^rsyte Wretyn at Iernemuthe the xv day of Iuly here is a Kervyl of Cane in Normandy and he takyth Duchemen and raunsumyth hem grevously.

Yore f^rvaunt and bedman

John Russe.

12 by 8 1/2.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. 1x. N^o 12.

UCC

Avery's twenty-four Tuns (*of*) Wine, whereof at the long way, he shall make the said Avery a lewd (*bad*) reckoning; the said Chapman loveth not you, nor no man to you ward, &c.

Sir, I pray God bring you once to reign among your countrymen in love, and to be dreaded; the longer ye continue there the more hurt groweth to you; men say ye will neither follow the advice of your own kindred, nor of your counsel, but only your own wilfulness, and which, but grace be, shall be your destruction.

It is my part to inform your mastership as the common voice is, God better it, and grant you once heart's ease; for it is half a death to me to hear the general voice of the people, which daily encreaseth, &c.

Sir, I beseech your mastership to remember my mistress for the little silver, which, for certain things delivered to your use, is due to me, I have need of it now, I have bought Salt and other things, which hath brought me out of much silver, I would trust and (*if*) I needed to borrow twenty pounds your mastership would ease me for a time, but this that I desire is mine own duty. And Jesu grant you ever your heart's desire to your worship and profit, and preserve you my right honourable master from all adversity.

Written at Yarmouth, the 15th day of July. Here is a Carvel of Caen, in Normandy, and he taketh Dutchmen, and ransometh them grievously.

Your Servant and Beadsman

JOHN RUSSE.

Yarmouth,
15 July, 1462, or 1463.
2 or 3 E. IV.

R 2

LET-

L E T T E R XXXII.

*To my right good maistr
Iohn Paston the oldest
beyg at Heylesdon besyde
Norwiche in hast.*

PLEASE yo' maistrship wete that Xpofer Hanson is ded
and beryed and as for exec' or testame' he mad non.

As for tydyngs the Erles of Warr of Essex lord Wenlok
Byfshop of Dereh'm and oy' go in to Scotland of Jnbassat And
as for the sege of Kaley's we here no more ther of blyssed be god
ho haue you in his kepyng It' as for Xpofers papers y' longeth
to yo' ten'nts I haue gotten of Will'm Worcest' And as for al y'
remn'nt of Xpofer good Will'm Worcest' hath y' reule as hym
semeth most cōvenie'.

Yo'

Thoms
Plapter.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.

Pl. XXII. N° 10.

This Letter is given as mentioning the death of one of the Writers of Letters in this Collection, and as containing an historical Fact relative to an embassy into Scotland, consisting of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, John Lord Wenlock, Laurence Booth, bishop of Durham, &c.

L E T

L E T T E R XXXV.

To my right good Master John Paston, the oldest, being at Helledon, beside Norwich, in haste.

PLEASE your mastership weet, that Christopher Hanson is dead and buried, and as for executor or testament he made none.

As for tidings the Earls of Warwick, of Essex, Lord Wenlock, Bishop of Durham, and other, go into Scotland of Inbassat (*in Embassy*).

And as for the siege of Calais we hear no more thereof, blessed be God, who have you in his keeping.

Item, as for Christopher's papers, that longeth to your tenants, I have gotten (*them*) of William Worcester, and as for all the remanent of Christopher's goods William Worcester hath the rule, as (*to*) him seemeth most convenient.

Your

THOMAS PLAYTERS.

After July, 1462.
2 E. IV.

Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 14.

For the time of Christopher's death see Letter XVI. Vol. I. p. 270.

LET-

LETTER XXXV.

*To myn ryth reuerent and worschypfull
Fader Iohn Paston beyng in the
Jnder Temple.*

RYGH T reverent and wyrshypfull Fader I recomand me
un to you be sychyng you of your blessing and gode
Faderhode Pleasyt it you to understond the grete exp'ns that I
haue dayly truelyng w^t the Kyng as the bero^r here of Can en-
fo^rme you and howe long that I am lyke to tary her in thys
coun'ty or I may speke w^t you a gayn and howe I am chargyd
to haue myn hors and harnys redy and in hasty wyse besykyng
you to Confyder theys causes and so to remembr me that I may
haue suche thynges as I may do my mayster servys w^t and plea-
sur trusting in god it schall be to your wyrshyp and to myn and
wayll in especiall I besyche you that I may be Sur where to haue
mony somwhat be fore Estern other of you or by myn Uncle
Clement when nede ys of othir causes the bero^r hereof Can en-
fo^rme you No more to you at thys tyme but god haue you in
hys kepyng Wryten at Stamford the xiiij day of March.

Be yowr sone and servant

John Paston, ye older.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.

This Letter dated from Stamford (either in Northumberland or Yorkshire,) appears to have been written in March 1462-3, when the King had an Army in the North to act against the Scots, who had made several attempts in favour of Henry and Margaret.

The Letter is written in an easy and dutiful style, and the request in it seems reasonable from a young man attending his royal master in the field.

LET.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

*To mine right reverend and worshipful Father John Paston, being
in the Inner Temple.*

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Father, I recommend me unto you, beseeching you of your blessing and good fatherhood. Please it you to understand the great expence that I have daily travelling with the King, as the bearer hereof can inform you, and how long that I am like to tarry here in this country ere I may speak with you again, and how I am charged to have mine horse and harness ready, and in hasty wise, beseeching you to consider these causes, and so to remember me that I may have such things as I may do my master service with and pleasure, trusting in God it shall be to your worship and to mine avail, in especial I beseech you, that I may be sure where to have money somewhat before Easter either of you, or by mine Uncle Clement when need is, of other causes the bearer hereof can inform you. No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

Written at Stamford, the 13th day of March.

By your Son and Servant

JOHN PASTON, the older.

Stamford,

Sunday, 13th of March, 1462-3.

3 E. IV.

In the year 1463 Easter Sunday fell upon the 10th of April, which gave a sufficient time for his Father to have money ready for him according to his request.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 29. He subscribes himself the elder, to distinguish himself from his younger Brother John Paston.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

*To my Worsh'pfull Mastr
Mastr Paston y^e heldest.*

RYTH worchepfull Mastr I Recōmend me on to zowr Mastr-
chepe and of on mat^r at reverens of God take hede for in-
trowth I her meche talkyng y^e of and y^t is both in Norffolk Suf-
folk and Norwyche among halle men of Worchepe as welle y^t
love zow as od^r and y^t is of my mastr zowr Son Syr Ion causse
he is So at home and no nod wyse fet for sūme sey y^t ze and he
both stond howth of y^e kyngs good gras and sūme sey y^t ze
kepe hym at home for negard chepe and wyll no thyng war up
on hym and so heche man sey is auyse as it plese hem to talke
And I haue hanqwerriyd and seyde y^e most cause is in p^ty for
cause ze har so meche howte y^t he is y^e rather at home for y^e
Saue gard of the Cofts But at y^e referens of god excheuēg of
comōn langage Se y^t he may worchepfull be fet for heydr^r in y^e
kyngs servyse or in Maryache For as for towchēg y^e lady ^r Cha-
berlē

This Letter contains nothing by which we can exactly fix the date, though it must have been written between 1462 and 1465, as it appears from it that J. Paston's son had been knighted. The hint of him and his son being out of the King's good grace, would fix it about 1465, as in 1466 J. Paston was committed to the Fleet, and died the same year.

The exact date, however, is immaterial, the character of the father being the object of the reader's notice.

* This Lady Chamberlayne was Anne, daughter and sole heir of Sir Robert Herling, knight, by Jane, daughter and heir of John Gonville, Esq. She married to her first husband Sir William Chamberlayne, Knight of the Garter, a renowned and valiant soldier, who

L E T T E R XXXVII.

To my worshipful Master, Master Paston the eldest.

RIGHT worshipful Master, I recommend me unto your Mastership, and of one matter at reverence of God take heed, for in truth I hear much talking thereof, and that is both in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Norwich among all men of worship, as well that love you as others, and that is of my master, your son Sir John, because he is so at home, and none other wise set for (*provided for*). Some say that ye and he both stand out of the King's good grace, and some say that ye keep him at home for negardchepe (*niggardship, covetousness*), and will no thing ware (*spend*) upon him, and so each man say his advice as it please him to talk ; and I have enquired, and said the most cause is in part, for cause ye are so much out, that he is the rather at home for the safeguard of the coasts. But at the reverence of God for eschewing of common language, see that he may worshipfully beset for (*provided for*), either in the King's service, or in marriage ; for as for touching the Lady ¹ Chamberlayne that matter

who died in 1462. She was at this time his widow, and inherited from her father a very considerable fortune.

She afterwards married Sir Robert Wingfield, and after his decease she became the wife of John Lord Scroop of Bolton.

By the name of Lady Scroop she founded and endowed a Fellowship in the College of Gonville and Caius at Cambridge, originally founded by an Ancestor of her Ladyship's.

She was born in 1426, and was alive in 1502.

At the time this letter was writing she must have been nearly forty years old, when Sir John Paston could not have been much above twenty.

berlē y^t mat^r is don for I spake w^t y^e p^rson y[']of and I hard be
hym y^t yat mat^r wyll not pre No more but God spede zow as
well in all maters as I wold ze xuld do J be seche zow y^t yis let^r
be kept secrete.

Be zow bede man

² R. C. D. C.

Paper Mark,
Hand and Flower.
Pl. xxvii. N^o 11.

² Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 15.

LETTER XXXIII.

*To my Right Wurshepful
Mastres my Mastres Margret
Paston at Caster.*

PLEASE it yo^r good mastrefship to wete y^t a ' fieri fac' is
come out of the Exchequir for Hue Fen to the Shireff of
Norff to make levy of CC m[']rk of the p[']pir goods and catels of
my masters as executor of S^r Iohn Fastolf of whch fieri fac' we
sent my master word whch sent us word ayen by Berney y^t we
shuld lete the Shiref undirstand that my master nevir toke upon
hym as executor and so for y^t cause y^t writte was no warant to

We have here the whole procefs of a writ of Fieri Facias, and the subterfuges used by
the defendants to defeat its effect, which they seem to have understood as well formerly,
as in these days of modern refinements, and vexatious proceedings.

take

is done for, I spake with the parson thereof, and I heard by him,
that that matrer will not pre. (*q. will not succeed.*)

No more but God speed you as well in all matters, as I would
ye should do, I beseech you that this letter by kept secr et

By your beadsman,

² R. C. V. C.

Between

1462 and 1465.

2 and 5 E. IV.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

*To my right worshipful Mistress, my Mistress Margaret Paston,
at Caister.*

PLEASE it your good mistresship to weet, that a ¹ Fieri
Facias is come out of the Exchequer for Hugh Fenn to
the Sheriff of Norfolk to make levy of two hundred marks
(133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) of the proper goods and chattels of my master, as
Executor of Sir John Fastolf, of which Fieri Facias we sent my
master word, which sent us word again by Berney that we should
let the Sheriff understand that my master never took upon him
as executor, and so for that cause that writ was no warrant to

¹ Fieri Facias, is a writ judicial, that lies (at all times within the year and day, for
him that hath recovered in an action of debt or damages) to the Sheriff, to command him
to levy the debt or damages of his goods against whom the recovery was had.

take my masters goods And also y^t my master mad a dede of gift of all his goods and catels to M^r Prewet and Clemēt Paston and other so that my master hath no goods whereof he shuld make levy of the forseid summe And if the Shireff wold not take this for. non Answere that thanne my master wold he shuld be lettid in M^r Prowetts and Clemēt Pastons name nevirthesse we spak w^t the shireff this day and lete hym undirstand the causes aforeseid and he agreid so that he myght haue fuerde to save hym harmeles to mak such retorne as my master or his Counsell could devise and because my master wrote by Berney y^t he wold not fynd the shireff no fuerde we wold not apoynt w^t hym in y^t wyse And so we toke Awyse of Thom's Grene and by cause the undirshireff shall be on Monday at Hygh'm by Bastewyk brygg and he and we thought that it was best that M^r Prowet shuld mete w^t the shireff there and require and charge hym that by colo^r of the forseid fieri fac^t that he make no levy of any goods and catels of the seid Prowetts and Clemēt Pastons ayens the seid Iohn Pastons letyng hym vete that such goods as the seid Paston had be now the seid Prowetts and Clemēt Pastons by vertu of a dede of gift mad to hem almost ij yere agoo And if the Shireff woll be besy aftir y^t to take any catell y^t he be lettid in master Prowetts name and Clemēt Pastons by Daubeney and other whech besines of the shireff shall be on Tuisday or Wednesday And as me understand at Heylesdon Wherfor ye must send the-
dir.

take my master's goods ; and also that my master made a deed of gift of all his goods and chattels to master Prowet and Clement Paston and others, so that my master hath no goods whereof he should make levy of the foresaid sum ; and if the Sheriff would not take this for none answer that then my master would he should be letted (*hindered*) in master Prowet's and Clement Paston's name ; nevertheless we spake with the Sheriff this day, and let him understand the causes aforesaid, and he agreed, so that he might have surety to save him harmless, to make such return as my master of his counsel could desire, and because my master wrote by Berney that he would not find the Sheriff no surety, we would not appoint with him in that wise ; and so we took advice of Thomas Green, and because the Under Sheriff shall be on Monday at (*Potter*) Heigham, by Bastwick bridge end, he and we thought that it was best that master Prowet should meet with the Sheriff there, and require and charge him that by colour of the foresaid Fieri Facias that he make no levy of any goods and chattels of the said master Prowet and Clement Paston against the said John Paston, letting him weet that such goods, as the said Paston had, be now the said Prowet's and Clement Paston's by viture of a deed of gift made to them almost two years ago ; and if the Sheriff will be busy after that to take any chattel that he be letted in master Prowet's name and Clement Paston's by Daubeney and others ; which business of the Sheriff shall be on Tuesday or Wednesday, and as we understand at Helleston, wherefore ye must send thither

dir Daubeney w^t Pecok and the may gete hym her more felaschep
by the Avise of mast^r S^r Iohn Paston.

² James Greth'm.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A Ring.

Pl. xxii. N^o 17.

² Autograph. Pl. III. N^o 28.

LETTER XXXIII.

Unto my maystres

Margageret Paston

be thys letter delyvryd

in hast &c.

RYGH T Wyrshypfull Maystres I recomaund me un to your
gode Maystrefshyp please it you to wyte that my Mayster
your hosbond my Maystres youre moder my mayster * S^r John
M' Wyllyam M' Clement and all ther men w^{er} in gode helth
whon thys letter was wryten thankyd be Ihu and also ther
maters be in a gode w^{ey} for my lord Chaunseler ys ther syngeler
gode lord in thys mater at thys tyme and that it prövyth fö
he was yesterday in the Eschequer and ther he had a foren hym

This Letter would not have found a place here, but at the request of some Friends eminent in the Law, who wished that every Letter, wherein any law proceedings were mentioned, might be given to the public.

thither Daubeney with Peacock, and they may get them there more fellowship by the advice of master Sir John Paston.

² JAMES GRESHAM.

Written

Between 1462 and 1465.

2 and 5 E. IV.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

Unto my Mistress Margaret Paston, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful mistrefs, I recommend me unto your good mistrefship, please it you to weet that my master your husband, my mistrefs your mother, my master * Sir John, master William, master Clement, and all their men were in good health when this Letter was written, thanked be Jesu, and also their matters be in a good way, for my Lord Chancellor is their singlar good Lord in this matter at this time, and that it proveth so, he was yesterday in the Exchequer, and there he had

George Neville, Bishop of Exeter (or Archbishop of York) was Lord Chancellor at this time.

* It appears from this Letter that Sir John Paston was knighted in the life-time of his Father.

afore

alle the Iuges all the Barons of the Eschequer and all the Shurgents and ther argued wher that the Barons of the Eschequer shold award any such ¹ Comysfyon or not and uppon that the seyde Comysfyon shull be broght uppon Fryday unto the Chauncery and ther to be provyd wher it be lafull or not &c. It' and yf please it you to gyve Daveney knowlych that ther ys Jugement gyven uppon the Condempnacion a yenst Hall that he claymed for hys bond man and the Jugemēt ys gyven a yenst Daveney Ric Call and Thom's Bon and ther ys Comen owte proces for to take ther bodys thys same day and if thay or any of them be taken thay shull neu^r gon ovte of p'son on to the tyme that they haue fatesfyed the ² party of viij^{xx} marc and ther for lete them be ware and The holy trinyte haue you in hys kyping Wryten at london uppon Thursday next after the Pur' of our lady &c.

By your f'vūt

³ John Wylkys.

11 1/4 by 5 1/2.

¹ We do not learn what this Commission related to.

² The Costs on this process in favour of the Bondman appear large.

afore him all the Judges, all the Barons of the Exchequer, and all the Serjeants and there argued where (*whether*) that the Barons of the Exchequer should award any such ¹ Commission or not, and upon that the said Commission shall be brought upon Friday into the Chancery and there to be proved, whether it be lawful or not, &c.

Item, and if it please you to give Daveney knowledge that there is judgment given upon the condemnation against Hall, that he claimed for his Bondman, and the judgment is given against Daveney, Richard Call and Thomas Bon, and there is coming out process for to take their bodies this same day, and if they or any of them be taken they shall never go out of prison unto the time that they have satisfied the party of eight score ² Marks (106*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) and therefore let them beware, &c. The Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at London, upon Thursday next after the purification of our Lady, &c.

By your Servant

³ JOHN WYKES.

Thursday, February,
between 1462 and 1465.
2 and 5 E. IV.

³ Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 16. See Letter XI. Vol. I. p. 252.

L E T T E R II.

*To my most Reu'ent
and worchepfull Maist'
John Paston dwellyng at
Heylysdon be y^r delyu'yd.*

Ïhs

MOST reu'ent and worchepfull Maist' I Recōmaund me onto yo^r god mast'chep please you to have knowlage on y^e Fryday at aft'noon next aft' seynt Pet' Ther was at y^e Tau'an in london old Debnam and yong Debnam Thom's Edmōds and I And ther the feyd Thom's Edmonds fell jn cōmunicacion w^t old Debnam and feyd that my ¹ lord Treforer had put hym to a gret Charge for the vetelyng of ² Mary Talbot feyyng to Old Debnam that he hard sey y^t he had a C bulloks to felle the wyche y^e feyd Edmonds wolle bey so y^t they may a Cord of y^e p^c Than the feyd old Debnam Answerd ageyn and feyd he wold so y^t he myght have good payment or ell y^e feyd Edmōds to be bound in Abligacon to pay hym at fuche dayys as they myght a Cord and noon vpon thys fame langwage yong Debnam spake to hys Fad^r Sr I p'y you y^t ye wolle Take Avifment of this mater tille to morowe for I trost to yo^r good fad^rod that ye wolle late me have a frteyn of yo^r bulloks for the vetelyng of the barge of Yermothe And I shall fynd you sufficient fuerte for y^e

I have given this Letter for two reasons, the first, as it shews the ease with which the familiar conversation between the persons here mentioned is reduced to writing, and the second, as it throws some light upon the means used for manning and victualling such ships as then composed the navy of England.

¹ John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, he was beheaded in October 1470.

L E T T E R XL.

*To my most reverend and worshipful Master John Paston, dwelling
at Helleston, be this delivered.*

Ïhs

MOST reverend and worshipful master, I recommend me unto your good masterhip, please you to have knowledge, on the Friday at afternoon next after Saint Peter, there was at the Tavern in London old Debenham and young Debenham, Thomas Edmonds and I; and there the said Thomas Edmonds fell in communication with old Debenham, and said that my ¹ Lord Treasurer had put him to a great charge for the victualling of (*the*) ² Mary Talbot, saying to old Debenham, that he heard say that he had a hundred Bullocks to sell, the which the said Edmonds will buy so that they may accord of the price; then the said old Debenham answered again and said, he would, so that he might have good payment, or else the said Edmonds to be bound in an obligation to pay him at such days as they might accord; anon upon this same language, young Debenham spake to his Father, " Sir I pray you that ye will
" take avisement of this matter till to-morrow, for I trust to your
" good fatherhood that ye will let me have a ferteyn (*a certain*
" *number*) of the bullocks for the victualling of the Barge of
" Yarmouth, and I shall find you sufficient surety for the pay-

² The Mary Talbot, it appears as if this Ship received her name from the blessed Virgin, who most probably had been implored to protect her, and from the valiant Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, who had so courageously fought in the French wars, this is merely a conjecture, and perhaps an ill founded one.

payment therof for Edmonds I wolle y^t ye knowe J have be ther
 and spoke w^t y^e owner and w^t y^e maistr of y^e feyd barge and they
 knowyn myn oppoyntment Than y^e feyd Edmōds Answered to
 yong Debnam and told hym that y^e fety of Norwic and Yermothe
 hathe grauntyd and fend wrytyng to y^e Kyng and to y^e
 lords that they wolle manne and veteylle y^e feyd barge of her
 owne Cost fro y^e tym of hyr goyng owt tylle hyr Comyng home
 And thus the feyd Edmōds told hym that my lord tresor^r and all
 y^e lords y^t be at london thynk they do ryght well her devy^r and
 be worthey moche thanke of y^e Kyng well q' yong Debnam J
 had in Cōmaundmēt for to have y^e rewle of y^e feyd barge and I
 wolle be at Yermothe as thys day iiij dayys and man hyr and
 bryng hyr downne to y^e Gylys of Hulle for y^t ys my Chype Also
 he feyd mor w^t out y^t he myght have y^e feyd barge he wolle
 note goo to see but hym self and hys xxiiij men and thus yf please
 yo^r maistr^rchep he dep^rtyd from y^e Tau'an And At hys dep^rtyng
 he told the feyd Thom's Edmonds thys ys Paston labor Than y^e
 feyd Edmonds Answerd hym ageyn and feyd playnly he was to
 blame for to reporte so of yo^r maistr^rchep for he knythe veryly
 he feyd on trewly of you and of my maistr^r yo^r son bothe and ther
 on he wold take a hothe And so yf it please yo^r good maistr^rchep
 late y^e Cety of Norwic and Yermothe have knowlage of hys gret
 Crakyng and boft and let hym of hys p^rpose be y^e Autorite y^t
 they have It' my Maistr^r yo^r son wolle have to hys Jakets ³ murry
 and Tany and that it please yow sum of my felachep may speke
 to on of y^e Drapers for to ordeyn yt Ageyns hys Comyng hom

³ Dark red or purple, and yellowish colour.

“ment thereof for Edmonds, I will that ye know I have been
“there and spöke with the owner and with the master of the
“said barge, and they know my appointment.”

Then the said Edmonds answered to young Debenham, and told him that the City of Norwich and Yarmouth hath granted, and sent writing to the King and to the Lords, that they will man and victual the said barge of their own costs from the time of her going out till her coming home; and thus the said Edmonds told him that my Lord Treasurer and all the Lords that be at London think they do right well their devoir (*duty*) and be worthy much thank of the King, “well,” quoth young Debenham, “I had in commandment for to have the rule of the
“said barge, and I will be at Yarmouth ere this day four days,
“and man her and bring her down to the Gylys of Hull for
“that is my ship.”

Also, he said more, without that he might have the said barge, he will not go to sea but himself and his twenty-four men, and thus, if please your mastership, he departed from the Tavern; and at his departing he told the said Thomas Edmonds, “this is Paston’s labour;” then the said Edmonds answered him again, and said plainly he was to blame for to report so of your mastership, for he knoweth verily he said untruely of you and of my master your son both, and thereon he would have taken an oath; and so, if it please your good mastership, let the City of Norwich and Yarmouth have knowledge of his great cracking and boasts, and let (*binder*) him of his purpose by the authority that they have.

Item, my master your son will have to his Jackets ³ Murrey and Tawney, and that it please you some of my fellowship may speak to one of the Drapers for to ordain it against his coming
home,

for I trowe it shall be thys day sevenyght ar he Comithe home
It' S^r if please you Skrowpe hathe sent to you to london be byng-
h'm for y^e mony y^t ye knowe of zit I spake not w^t hym but J
shall telle hym y^t I Suppose ye shall be her in y^e last end of y^e
terme and J shall send yo^r mast^rchep word what Answer J have
of hym.

Itm S^r if pleese fuche tydyngs as I herof I send you word my Lord
of Warwek hathe be in ⁴ Skotland an take a castell of y^e Skoots
and upon thys ther came y^e ⁵ Quene of Skoots w^t other lords of
her contr' as ye shall her y^e namys in basetry to my seyde Lord of
Werwek and a trews is take betwyx thys and seynt Bertylmew
day in Auguste thes is the last tydyngs y^t I knowe No mor to
yo^r god mast^rchep at y^e tyme but Ihu have in kepyng Wretyn on
y^e saturday next aft^r seynt Pet^r.

By yo^r por frvunt

⁶ J. Daubenep.

12 by 8.

Paper Mark,
Hand and Flower.
Pl. xxvii. N^o 11.

Seal:

A W. surmounted by a Coronet.
Pl. xiv. N^o 9.

* This relates to the transactions in the North during the year 1463, when the Earl of Warwick commanded there after Edward's return to London, who was now attentive to the designs of France respecting Henry and Margaret.

REC.

home, for I trow it shall be this day sev'night ere he cometh home.

Item Sir, if please you, Skroope hath sent to you to London by Bingham for the money that ye know of; yet I spake not with him, but I shall tell him that I suppose ye will be here in the last end of the term, and I shall send your mastership word what answer I have of him.

Item, Sir if please, such tidings as I hear of, I send you word, my Lord of Warwick hath been in ⁴ Scotland and taken a castle of the Scots, and upon this there came the ⁵ Queen of Scots with other Lords of her Country, as ye shall hear the names, in basetry (*in embassy*) to my said Lord of Warwick, and a truce is taken betwixt this and Saint Bartholomew's day in August, these is (*are*) the last tidings that I know. No more to your good mastership at this time, but Jesu have (*you*) in his keeping. Written on the Saturday next after Saint Peter.

By your poor servant

⁶ J. DAUBENEY.

Saint Peter,

Saturday, 2d of July, 1463.

3 E. IV.

⁵ Mary, daughter of Arnold, Duke of Gelders, and Mother to James III. King of Scotland. She was a woman of heroic valour, and took an active part in the government with the Regents during the minority of her Son. She died during this year.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 18.

LET-

L E T T E R XLJ.

*To my Maistre Iohn
Paston the yonger be this
delyv'ed.*

SERE I haue receyved yo^r lett^re wherin I undrestand that my Maistre desired that my Maistre yo^r brother myght haue the gidyng and governaunce of the Barge of Yermouthe as to that and men of Yermouthe had knowen my maistre entend a For-nyght a goo. he had ben fwer of it but nough it is so that Debenh'm hathe a Comyscon of the Kyng expressed oonly for that schip named in hes comyscon and he hathe ben here at Yermouthe and spoken w^t the Balyffs and w^t the own's of the seide schip and takyn suche a direcon that they may g'unted it ne man but hym And moreou' he hathe endented w^t the own's of the schip what daye it schulbe redy as well vetaylled as manned and also he hathe brought downe letters from my lord tresorer to all p^os s and gentlemē in this Contre to helpe h^y and assiste h^y to vetayle and manne the seide schip and hes men is here dayle and gothe abought and gathereth whete malt money and what so eu^r any man woll geve &c. The bliffed t'nyte p'serue you Wretē at Castre the Friday next afre I receyued yo^r lett^re It' is talked here that my maistre yo^r brother and Debenh'm were at words at london and that Debenh'm shuld haue streken

We have in this Letter a further account of the proceedings relative to the commanding, manning, and victualling of the Barge of Yarmouth, and the means made use of to procure the different stores to fit her for her voyage, &c.

hym

LETTER XLI.

To my Master John Paston, the younger, be this delivered.

SIR, I have received your Letter, wherein I understand that my master desired that my master your brother might have the guiding and governance of the Barge of Yarmouth; as to that and (*if*) men of Yarmouth had known my master's intent a fortnight ago he had been sure of it, but now it is so that Debenham hath a Commission of the King expressed only for that ship named in his Commission, and he hath been here at Yarmouth, and spoken with the Bailiff and with the owners of the said ship, and taken such a direction that they may grant it no man but him; and moreover he hath indented with the owners of the ship what day it shall be ready as well victualled as manned; and also he hath brought down Letters from my Lord Treasurer to all Priors and Gentlemen in this Country to help him and assist him to victual and man the said ship, and his men is here daily, and goeth about and gathereth wheat, malt, money, and whatsoever any man will give, &c.

The blessed Trinity preserve you. Written at Caister, the Friday next after I received your Letter.

Item, it is talked here that my master your brother and Debenham were at words at London, and that Debenham should

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9. Seal, an Eagle's Head erased, &c. Pl. xxiii. N° 8.

VOL. IV.

U

have

hym had nought Howard a beene &c. Wherof I am ryght sory
&c. neu'thelesse I truſte to god all ſchul be weell.

Yo^r ſ'vu'nt

Ric Calle.

Paper Mark,
A Vine Branch.
Pl. x. N^o 11.

LETTER XLIIJ.

*To ye ryght worcheppful
Sere Iohn Paſton Knyght be
yis delyu'ed.*

RYGH^T worchepful Ser and tendyrly belouyd in our lorde
god I comend me to you Sendyng you knowyng that I
dede your erand to my Broy^r the perſoon of Blofeeld on Wed-
nyſdaye was ſeuenyght after y^e undyrſtandyng y^r I had of you
and from you be yis brynger whech man I felte ryght wele and
fauorabelye dyſpoſyd to you ward and more fauorable wole be
yan to ony oy^r Jentylman levand. the wylle of y^e dede p^rformyd
and his Conſcyens fauyd. And more yinges ſeyd fauorablye
for yow which J entytelyd in a ſcrowe to a certyfyed to your
ſeruaunt Calle yf he had Come as ye ſent me woord he ſculd
ado And xuld as ye beheſtyd me abrowte me our ferme for
Heyleſdon which not don Cauſeth me to wryte Prayng your
Jan-

have stricken him had not Howard a been (*have been*) &c. whereof I am right sorry, &c. nevertheless I trust to God all shall be well.

Your Servant

RICHARD CALLE.

Caister, Friday, July 1463.

3 E. IV.

See Letter CVIII. Vol. III.

L E T T E R XLII.

To the right worshipful Sir John Paston, knight, be this delivered.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, and tenderly beloved in our Lord God, I commend me to you, sending you knowing (*knowledge*) that I did your errand to my brother the parson of Blofield on Wednesday was fevnight after the understanding that I had of you and from you by this bringer, which man I felt right well and favourably disposed to you ward, and more favourably will be than to any other gentleman living, the will of the dead performed, and his conscience saved, and more things said favourably for you, which I entituled in a scroll to have certified to your servant Calle, if he had come, as ye sent me word he should have done, and should as ye behested (*promised*) me, have brought me our ferm for Hellefdon, which not done, causeth me to write, praying your gentleness that I send no more

Iantylneffe yat I send no more y'fore For it is unpaid for ye
 zeer afore the halwemesse yat my Mayster Fastolf deyed And
 for the same zer yat he deyed in And sythen for ij zer and v^s
 unpaid of a zer And Come Myhelmesse nexte xal be anoyer
 zer unpaid yus is iiij zer unpaid and v^s And at Myhelmesse
 next xal be v zer and v^s This yus kepte from holy chirche yat
 is holy Chirchez good may not be w'oute grete p'elle of foule
 Wher y^e p'elle is god knowt J pray god amend it And geve
 hem grace y^t haue his goods so to dyspose them yat yei and y^e
 dede both may be oute of p'elle And the Trynyte haue you in
 his mercyful kepyng Wretyn at langle on Soneday at Euyn
 late next after Seynt Iohne daye Decollacon.

Be pour welewylland
 Abbot of langlepe.

12 by 5 $\frac{3}{4}$.

We see in this Letter the hold which the Clergy had on the Laity for any omissions in payment of what was due to the Church; the danger of Sir John Paston's soul is gently touched upon, and the fears for the peace of that of Sir John Fastolf is ingeniously introduced. From the account in this Letter the arrears were of so considerable standing that Sir John Paston's memory seemed to want a little refreshing, and the *Bringer* of this Letter appears to have received his instructions accordingly.

CCC.

therefore, for it is unpaid for the year afore the Hallowmas that my master Fastolf died, and for the same year that he died in, and since for two years, and five shillings unpaid of a year, and come Michaelmas next shall be another year unpaid, thus is four years unpaid and five shillings, and at Michaelmas next shall be five years and five shillings.

This thus kept from Holy Church, that is Holy Church's good may not be without great peril of soul; where the peril is God knoweth, I pray God amend it, and give them grace that have his goods so to dispose them, that they and the dead both may be out of peril, and the Trinity have you in his merciful keeping. Written at Langley, on Sunday at even late, next after Saint John's day (*the*) Decollation, (*29th of August*).

By you well-willing,
ABBOT of LANGLEY.

Langley,
Sunday, 4th of September,
1463. 3 E. IV.

The Abbey of Langley was founded in the time of Richard I. about the year 1198. Nicholas occurs Abbot in 1428 and 1463, and Nicholas Wamerton in 1467 and 1474; it was most probably the first Nicholas, who was the writer of this Letter, as Wamerton can scarcely be supposed to have been the Abbot so early as 1428, unless he lived to a very old age.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N° 3.

L E T.

LETTER XLIII.

*To my right Worchepful hosbond
Iohn Paston be y^r lett^r
deliv^yd in hast.*

RIGHT Worchefull hosbond I Recōmand me to you please you to wete y^t I Rec^d a lett^r frome you on y^e Son-day next Aft^r twelfthe day weche was sent be a prest of seynt Gregorys paryche of Norwic and wher as y^e mervaylyd I sent you no wryt̄yggs of fuche letters As y^e sent me be for I sent you A Answer of y^e substauns of fuche maters as y^e have wretyn of to me be for (be Playter) y^e weche he told me a sent hem to you to london And as towchyng y^e erands y^t y^e sent to me for to do to Ric^e Calle J have do as y^e cōmand me to do and callyd upon hym therfor bothe be for yo^r writyng and sithyn he thar have non excuse for defaute of leyser for he hathe be but ryght litill her syn y^e dep^rtyd hens he is owght at this tyme and whan y^t he comythe home J shall make hym make yow A Cler bylle of y^e receyt of yo^r lyvelod and Fastolf bothe And J shale send yow a Cler bylle of my receyts And also of my paymēts owght thereof Ageyn And as for fuche erands y^t shuld be do to Sr Thom's Howys I have shewyd Ric^e Calle yo^r Writyng and told hym yo^r entent as for fuche thyngs as y^e wold he shuld sey to hym on hys none heed Also I have do yo^r erands to my mod^r and to my Cosyn Cler Aft^r yo^r Writyng It'm I have spoke to Iohn Adam and to Playter of yo^r entent of y^e last bylle y^t y^e sent me and

L E T T E R XLIII.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, please you to weet that I received a Letter from you on the Sunday next after Twelfth day, which was sent by a Priest of St. Gregory's parish of Norwich; and whereas ye marvelled I sent you no writings of such Letters as ye sent me before, I sent you an answer of the substance of such matters as ye have written of to me before (*by Playters*) the which he told me a sent them (*went*) to you to London. And as touching the errands that ye sent to me for to do to Richard Calle, I have done as ye commanded me to do, and called upon him therefore, both before your writing, and sithen (*since*); he therefore have none excuse for fault of leisure, for he hath been but right little here since ye departed hence; he is out at this time, and when that he cometh home I shall make him make you a clear bill of the receipt of your livelihood, and Fastolf's both; and I shall send you a clear bill of my receipts, and also of my payments out thereof again; and as for such errands that should be done to Sir Thomas Howes, I have shewed Richard Calle your writing, and told him your intent, as for such things as ye would he should say to him on his own head. Also I have done your errands to my mother and to my Cousin Clere after your writing. Item, I have spoken to John Adam and to Playters of your intent of the last bill that ye sent me, and they say they will do
after

they sey they wolle do Aft^r yo^r entent as moche as they may And y^e shall have a answer therof in haft It^r S^r Rob^r Coniors dinid w^t me this day and shuyd me a lett^r y^t came frome y^e kyng to hym desyryng hym y^t he shuld a wayt upon hys welle be lovyd brodr y^e Duk^r of Suff^r at Norwic^r on Monday next comyng for to be at y^e Aleccion of knyghts of y^e Chyer And he told me y^t ev^ry lentylmā of Norff^r and Suff^r y^t arne of any repetacion hathe writyng frome y^e kyng in lyke wyse as he had I felle hym be his seyyng y^t he ys right welle disposyd to you ward he seythe ther shall no man make hym to be a geyns you in no mat^r. Skypw^t shall telle you fuche tydyngs as bethe in y^s Contr^r, and of ¹ Thom^s Gorney and of hys man hym self is Clerk cōvicte and hys man is hangyn y^e shalle her her aft^r what they and od^r wer purposyd to a do to her mast^r I thank you hertely of yo^r writyng to me be for y^t Iohn Paston came home for God know-ith I thought right longe tyle I hard frome you J shalle send word in writyng of fuche tydings as we have her on Monday in haft Daubeney deseyryht to wet what tyme y^t it please you y^t he shuld come ageyn to you my mod^r and many other folkys makyth moche of yo^r son Iohn y^e Eld^r and right glad of hys comyng

It appears from this Letter, which contains many curious particulars, that the King interested himself in the Election for the County of Norfolk, in behalf of those Candidates who were recommended by his Brother the Duke of Suffolk. This Parliament was summoned to meet in January 1463-4, and it appears that Paston, Berney, and Heydon were the Candidates, though Paston did not intend to be present, as his wife was to give him the earliest intelligence of what passed.

¹ There was at this time a Thomas Gurney, Esq. of Norwich, who had married Margaret, Daughter of Sir Thomas Jernegan, of Somerleton, and who died in 1471, but it does not appear to have been him that is here mentioned.

The following extract from one of these old Letters from Thomas Playters to John Paston, Esq. explains the crime committed by this Person and his Servant, (Jan. 1463-4. 3 E. IV).

“ Please

after your intent as much as they may, and ye shall have an answer thereof in haste.

Item, Sir Robert Coniers dined with me this day, and shewed me a Letter that came from the King to him, desiring him that he should await upon his wellbeloved brother the Duke of Suffolk, at Norwich on Monday next coming, for to be at the Election of Knights of the Shire; and he told me that every gentleman of Norfolk and Suffolk that are of any reputation hath writing from the King in likewise as he had. I feel him by his saying, that he is right well disposed to you ward; he saith there shall no man make him to be against you in no manner. Skipwith shall tell you such tidings as beeth in this Country, and of Thomas Gorney and of his man; himself is Clerk convict, and his man is hanged; ye shall hear hereafter what they and others were purposed to have done to their master.

I thank you heartily of your writing to me before that John Paston came home, for God knoweth I thought right long till I heard from you; I shall send word in writing of such tidings as we have here on Monday in haste. Dawbeney desireth to weet what time that it please you, that he should come again to you.

My mother and many other folks maketh much of your son John, the elder, and (*are*) right glad of his coming home, and

“ Please yor maiest^rship wete, that, as for my Lord of Norwich Cosyns deth, Thomas Gurnays man hath confessed that he slewe hym by comāundmēt of his maiest^r, and confessed ovr, that y^e same dager he slewe hym wyth he kest (*cast*) it in a sege, whiche is founden and taken up al to bowyd (*bent together*,) for he cowde not breke it, and in p^rson is bothe he and his maiest^r.”

The same Letter then goes on, and says,

“ Also on Thursday next afr. Cristemasse was a man slayn by whom no man woot, nor what he is that was slayn, no man knowe, his face is so mangled.”

comyng hom and lekyth reght welle hys demenyng ² Heydon
 fon hathe bor owght y^e fyyd stowtly her y^s Cristemes and whan
 y^t he rydyth he hathe iiij or v men w^t hym in a Clothyng but
 he hathe but lytyl fafor in y^s Contr' but yf it be of y^e ³ bischop
 and of y^e ⁴ prior of Norwic y^e feyd p^ror hathe graūtyd hym y^e
 stewerdchep y^t hys fed^r had he hathe
 it und^r y^e Covent seale and ⁵ Spylman his tutor to lerne hym
 howe he shuld be demenyd it is feyd
 abowght bakynstorp y^t Herry Heydon shuld a feyd y^t it wer
 welle do y^t men of y^e shuld make redy her
⁶ bald batts and her ⁷ Clot Shon and go feche hom her knyghts
 of Chy^r Barney And it is
 p^rmysyd hym y^t he shall be met w^t be cause of hys langage
 us a good world and a
 pesybyll I shall p^rvey for all thyngs y^t ye have sent to me for so
 y^t I ween ye shal be pleasyd The blyssyd trinite have you in hys
 kepyng Wretyn in hast y^e Wednyfday next
 Seynt Agnet.

Yo^r⁸ M. P.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 12 $\frac{3}{4}$.Paper Mark,
A Bull.Pl. ix. N^o 10.² This must be Henry, Son of John Heydon, Esq. Recorder of Norwich.³ Walter Lyhert, Bishop from 1445 to 1472.⁴ John Molet or Mowth, Prior, from 1453 to 1471.⁵ Henry Spilman, afterwards Recorder of Norwich; he was the founder of the Spilmans
 of Narborough, by marrying Ela, Daughter and heir of William de Narborough.

A C C

liketh right well his demeaning. ² Heydon's son hath born out the side stoutly here this Christmas, and when that he rideth, he hath four or five men with him in Clothing; but he hath but litle favour in this country, but if (*unless*) it be of the ³ Bishop and of the ⁴ Prior of Norwich, the said Prior hath granted him the stewardship that his father had, he hath it under the Convent Seal, and ⁵ Spilman (*is*) his tutor to learn him how he should be demeaned *therein*. It is said about Baconfthorp that Harry Heydon should have said that it were well done that men of the *Country* should make ready their ⁶ bald batts and their ⁷ clouted shoen (*Shoes*) and go fetch home their Knights of Shire Barney; and it is promised him that he shall be met withal because of his language. *Pray God send* us a good world and a peaceable. I shall purvey for all things that ye have sent to me for, so that *I ween ye shall* be pleased. The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written in haste, the Wednesday next *before* Saint Agnes.

Your

⁸ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Wednesday

18th January, 1463-4.

3 E. IV.

⁶ *Bald batts* seem to mean here ball Batts, or Batts to play at Ball with.

⁷ *Clot shoen*, clouted Shoes—Shoes shod with thin plates of iron.

⁸ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25. N. B. A part of the Original Letter is torn off, which makes it defective in two or three sentences.

LETTER XLIII.

*To my right Worshipfull
 māyster Iohn Paston at
 Caſtre in Norfolk.*

AFTER due recomendacon hadde please it yo^r maiſt^rſhip to wytte that yis day the plee by twene Ogan and yow was fore argued in y^e Kynggs benche by yo^r counfell in lettyng of ye jugem^t. And to morwe have they day to argue ageyn. And for lak of copies of y^e plee I am fayn to ſewe for newe copies y^of for yo^r counfell. yo^r counfell hopeth to do weel yⁱn theſe argued for yow maiſters ¹ Grenefeld Cateſby Pygot Notyngh^m and Starky &c. And yeſterday was the matier by twene Debenh^m and yow called by ² Geney for an answer I have ſpoken onto Cateſby and delyv^red hym yo^r enfromacon and to be aduyſed and to co^e w^t maiſt^r Grenefeld and the two ³ cheſe Juges and maiſt^r ⁴ lyttleton arn awaytyng up on the kyng For the Kyng is p^rpoſed in to Glouceſtreſhire &c. it is ſeid that my lord ⁵ Chaunceller ſhull be here on Saterday or on Moneday next comyng. As y^e maiſteres of the Chaunc^{ye} fayn I write to yow this by cauſe ye ſeid to me if ye wyſt y^t my lord Chaunceller

¹ The King at this time was uſing every means to make himſelf popular, and for that purpoſe intended viſiting different parts of the Kingdom.

² I have given this Letter as containing ſeveral law matters, and the names of many eminent Lawyers.

John Greenfield, John Cateſby, and Richard Pygot were made Serjeants in November 1464. Cateſby afterwards became a Judge in 1482.

In 1480 William Nottingham was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and in 1484 was ſucceeded by Sir Humphrey Starkey.

ſhuld

L E T T E R XLIV.

To my right worshipful Master John Paston, at Caister, in Norfolk.

AFTER due recommendation had, please it your master-ship to weet that this day the Plea between Ogan and you was fore (*much*) argued in the King's Bench by your Counsel, in letting of the judgment, and to-morrow have they day to argue again. And for lack of Copies of the Plea, I am fain to sue for new copies thereof for your Counsel; your Counsel hopeth to do well therein; these argued for you, ¹ Greenfield, Catesby, Pygot, Nottingham and Starky, &c. and yesterday was the matter between Debenham and you called by ² Jenney for an answer. I have spoken unto Catesby, and delivered him your information, and to be advised, and to commune with master Greenfield, &c.

The two ³ Chief Judges and master ⁴ Lyttelton are awaiting upon the King, for the King is purposed into Gloucestershire, &c.

It is said that my Lord ⁵ Chancellor shall be here on Saturday or on Monday next coming, as the Masters of the Chancery say. I write to you this because ye said to me, if ye wist that

¹ William Jenney was made a Serjeant in 1464, and a Justice of the King's Bench in 1478.

³ John Markham, Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1462.

Robert Danby, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1462.

⁴ Thomas Lyttelton, the famous Lawyer, was created a Serjeant in 1453, and appointed a Judge of the Common Pleas in 1467: he died in 1481, aged 79.

⁵ George Neville, now Bishop of Exeter, but soon after the writing of this Letter translated to York.

my

shuld be here yanne wolde ye come hidder and ell wolde ye not come here yis t'me As touchyng Ryfying he hath his day ut. pur. but I have yat weye y^t his p'sence is recondet for al this t'me Maist^r ⁶ Clement tellyth me y^t Wyffeter hath put excepcon on to yo^r wyttenefferes &c. It is seid y^t the Kyng wold ride Suffex Kent Effex Suff' and Norff' and so to the p'lem^t. For he hath sent for alle his feed men to awayte up on hym in yeir best aray in al haft Wretyn at london the Thursday in y^e morwe aft^r. feynt poule.

Yo^r owen pou'e man

James
Gresh'm.

12 by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N^o 7.

Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. xxix. N^o 10.

⁶ Clement Paston, brother to John Paston.

⁷ This relates to the disputes concerning Sir John Fastolf's Will.

L E T T E R III.

*To my right Worshipfull
Master Iohn Paston the
elde' squ'ie.*

PLEASE yo^r mastership to wete that the ¹ Affise holde this day at Thetford And as for any newe affise that ye spak of ther is non ner non other savyng on for a man a bought

This Letter was written at a time when Edward, having confiscated many of the Estates of the Lancastrians, and granted them to those of his own party, was by mildness and affability endeavouring to become popular.

my Lord Chancellor should be here, then would ye come hither, and else would ye not come here this term.

As touching Ryfing he hath his day, Utas Purificationis (9th February,) but I have that way that his presence is recon-
dite for all this term.

Master ⁶ Clement telleth me that Worcester hath put excep-
tion unto your Witneses, &c.

It is said that the King would ride (*into*) Suffex, Kent, Effex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, and so to the Parliament, for he hath sent for all his Feedmen to await upon him in their best array in all haste.

Written at London, the Thursday in the morrow after Saint Paul.

Your own poor man

⁸ JAMES GRESHAM.

London,

Thursday, 26th of January,

1463-4. 3 E. IV.

⁸ Autograph. Pl. III. N^o 28. The impression on the Seal is a Grafshopper.
Pl. xiv. N^o 2.

L E T T E R XLV.

To my right worshipful Master, John Paston, the elder, Esq.

PLEASE your mastership to weet that the ¹ Affize hold this day at Thetford; and as for any new Affize, that ye spoke of, there is none, nor none there saving one for a man about Brunham.

¹ William Calthorpe was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

I spake

Brunham I spak w^e Herward and I askyd hym if ther was any gret day at Bury and he seid thei was but a small day and as for any affises ther wer non but old And he told me that Debenh'm and the undershireff were falle ought Debenh'm bare the Shireff on hand that he had do indited an hundred men son he cam in to his office and the Shireff told hym that the kyngs bokkes apperid whedir it was so or nought And he told Debenh'm that he coud indite an hundred at on tyme whan ye wer indited and named yow the Cause of ther brekyng ther was a man kyllid now late in Suff. And he that ded it was on of Debenh'm's men and Herward told me that the Shireff seid to hym he wold do Debenh'm a shrewd turne and he coud. It'm it was told me at Norwich that Master Berney shuld haue be here w^t a gret fellowship and it is not so ner no man heryth of hys Comyng ner her is but litell pepill nowther ther wer not so fewe this iij yer as men say. It'm Herward askyd me where John Gayn was and J askyd why and he seid ther is a capias ought ayens hym upon the ² condēpnacē and the shireff hath it he bad me geue hym warnyng it is retarnabill xv ³ pasch'.

It'm thei sey here that the Kyng was on Monday at Walth'm.

It'm Nicholas Colman hath brought home yo^r fardell it is at Norwich.

It'm ther be no more Iuges here but S^r Pers ⁴ Ardeyn Wretyn at Thetford the Wednesday the last day of Februar.

² Query, as to this word, it being not perfect in the Original?

³ Quinzieme Pasche, the fifteenth day after Easter.

It'm

I spake with Herward, and I asked him if there was any great day at Bury, and he said there was but a small day, and as for any affizes there were none but old; and he told me that Debenham and the Under Sheriff were fallen out; Debenham bare the Sheriff an hand that he had do (*caused to be*) endicted an hundred men since he came into his office, and the Sheriff told him that the King's books appeared whether it was so or not, and he told Debenham that he could endict an hundred at one time when ye were endicted, and named you the cause of their breaking.

There was a man killed now late in Suffolk, and he that did it was one of Debenham's men, and Herward told me that the Sheriff said to him he would do Debenham a shrewd turn and (*if*) he could.

Item, it was told me at Norwich that Master Berney should have been here with a great fellowship, and it is not so, nor no man heareth of his coming, nor here is but little people neither, there were not so few this three years, as men say.

Item, Herward asked me where John Gayne was, and I asked why, and he said there is a Capias out against him upon the ² condemnation, and the Sheriff hath it, he bade me give him warning; it is returnable xv ³ pasche.

Item, they say here that the King was on Monday at Waltham.

Item, Nicholas Colman hath brought home your fardel, it is at Norwich.

Item, there be no more Judges here but Sir Pers ⁴ Ardern.

Written at Thetford, the Wednesday the last day of February.

⁴ Sir Peter Ardern, Knight, was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, &c.

It'm ⁵ Wymondh'm is her and was at the Shirehows this day and the kyngs livery abaught his ⁶ nekke and ther stood be the Juge whill a lettir of the Kyngs was red the effect was as it was told me that the Kyng will that Justice be had and that all risers ayens the pees and oppressers of the pepill be chasteised letyng hem that he was late in Cambrigge Shire and there such as had offendid askyd g'ce whech thei had fauyng such as wer rewlars whom he woll fomwhat bee punyfs hid p'posyng to be in this Contry about Eftern, &c.

Yo^r servūt, &c.

⁷ John Dampynge.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁵ John Wymondham, Esq. the purchaser of Felbrigg; he died there in 1475, and was buried in the Augustine Friars at Norwich. From him the present William Wyndham, Esq. of Felbrigg, is lineally descended.

⁶ This was either some coloured ribbon, or, most probably, a Collar with the King's device.

Collars were at this time generally worn by persons of consequence, and by the fashion and form of them the rank of the wearer was intended to be ascertained; they were usually formed of SS, having on the centre before, a rose or some other device, and were made either of gold or silver, according to the rank, dignity, or fortune of the wearer.

LEC.

Item, ⁵ Wymondham is here, and was at the Shire-house this day, and the King's Livery about his ⁶ neck, and there stood by the Judge, while a Letter of the King's was read, the effect was, as it was told me, that the King will that Justice be had, and that all risers against the peace, and oppressors of the people be chastised, letting them weet that he was late in Cambridgehire, and that there such as had offended asked grace, which they had, saving such as were rulers, whom he will somewhat see punished, proposing to be in this Country about Easter.

Your Servant

7 JOHN PAMPYNGE.

Thetford, Wednesday,
the last day of February,

1463-4. 3 E. IV.

By an Act "For Reformation of Excess of Apparel," passed in the 24 H. VIII. 1532. ch. 13. it was enacted, "that no man, unless he be a Knight, wear any Collar of Gold, named a Collar of SS." This Collar therefore from that time became the distinguishing badge of knighthood.

7 Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 12.

Y 2

LET-

LETTER XLV.

*To my ryght Wyrshypfull
Maystr John Paston the
oldest be y^r delyuy'd in
haste.*

J recomaund me &c.

YF it pleasyd you J wold ryght fayn that John Jenney werre putte oute of the Comysfyon of the peas and that my brother wyll lumn^r wer set yn in hys stede for me thynkyth it wer ryght neceffere that ther were such a wan in that County that oght you gode wyll and I knowe verely he owyth you ryght gode wyll he was w^t me at Caster but late yf ther be made any labor for Docto^r Alyn to be Justice of the peas I p^y you for gods sake let it be lettyd yf ye may for he wyll take to moch upon hym yf he werr J wold not that he wer remembyrd of your parte but yf he be spokyn of of other parts he ys ryght grete w^t M Phylp lypzate and the Baylyf of Coshay yf it please yow to wyte that Wyks dyde a reste on Wyll Dylmyn of Norwych as Pampyng Can enforme you of for sertyn harnys wych he delyu^yd hym at New Castell for to Cary to Yarmoth by water and ther to delyu^r it to hym ayen whych harnys he kypt styll and may not be delyu^yd and now ther ys Com down an habeas Corpus for hym and most appyr at the Comyn place on Fryday next Comyng Wherfor yf it pleased you that ther myght be taken an accyon

Though this Letter contains nothing very interesting, yet as it mentions the Commis-
sion of the Peace, and gives some account of a law procefs, I have thought proper to
present it to the reader.

in

L E T T E R XLVI.

*To my right worshipful Master, John Paston, the oldest, be
this delivered in haste.*

I recommend me, &c.

IF it please you, I would right fain that John Jenney were put out of the Commission of the Peace, and that my brother William Lumnor were set in his stead, for me thinketh it were right necessary that there were such a man in that county that oweth you good will, and I know verily he oweth you right good will, he was with me at Caister but late; if there be made any labour for Doctor Allen to be Justice of the Peace, I pray you for God's sake let it be letted if ye may, for he will take too much upon him, if he were, I would not that he were remembered of your part, but if (*unless*) he be spoken of of other parts; he is right great with Master Philip Lypzate and the Bailiff of Cossey.

If it please you to weet that Wykes did arrest one William Dylmyn of Norwich, as Pampyng can inform you of, for certain Harnes which he delivered him at Newcastle for to carry to Yarmouth by water, and there to deliver it to him again, which harnes he kept still, and may not be delivered, and now there is come down an Habeas Corpus for him, and (*he*) must appear at the Common Place on Friday next coming; wherefore if it pleased you that there might be taken an action in Wykes's

It mentions likewise the offensive and defensive armour, &c. then in use; and concludes with some very serious and pressing advice to J. Paston to conclude his own intricate business relative to Sir John Fastolf's property, &c.

Autograph. Pl. II. No 25.

name

in wyks name of trespas under such forme as ther may be a Capias a wardyd a yenst hys Comyng for after that he was arestyd he dyde Daubeney to be Arestyd for mayntenynge and as for the harnys Wyks delyu'yd it to hym the x day of Ianuar the ij yer of Kyng E. in pylgryme strete at New Castell Jn'p'm^s a peyr Brygandys a falet a Boresper a Bawe xvij arwys ij payr polronds a standard of Mayle a payr slyvys of plate to the valew of v marc and at the reuerens of god flowth not your maters nowe and make an yend of hem other p'uey you to make hym or to marre hem in haste for thys ys to orybyll a Coste and trobell that ye haue and haue had for to endur any whyle and it ys grete heuenys to your frends and welwyllers and grete Joy and Comfort to your Ennemyes my lord of Norwych seyde to me that he wold noth abyde the sorow and trobell that ye haue abyden to wyn all Sr John Fastolf ys gode and god be your spede in all yor maters Wryten at Haylesdon the xij day of May.

I thynk ryght long to hyr tydyngs tyll I have tydyngs from you.

Your

M. P.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

Seal: a Stag couchant.

Pl. xxviii. N^o 4.

REC=

name of trespass under such form as there may be a Capias awarded against his coming, for after that he was arrested, he did (*caused*) Daubeney to be arrested for maintaining; and as for the Harness Wykes delivered it to him the 10th day of January, the 2d year of King Edward IV. (1462) in Pilgrim-street, at Newcastle; Imprimis a pair (*of*) Briganders, a Salet, a Boarspear, a Bow, eighteen arrows, two pair (*of*) Pouldrons (*shoulder-pieces*), a standard of mail, a pair (*of*) Sleeves of plate, to the value of five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and at the reverence of God, floth not your matters now, and make an end of them, either purvey you to make them or to mar them in haste, for this is too horrible a cost and trouble, that ye have and have had, for to endure any while, and it is great heaviness to your friends and well willers, and great joy and comfort to your enemies.

My Lord of Norwich said to me that he would not abide the sorrow and trouble that ye have abiden, to win all Sir John Fastolf's good. God be your speed in all your matters. Written at Haylesdon, the 13th day of May.

I think right long to hear tidings till I have tidings from you.

Your

MARGARET PASTON.

13th of May,

between 1463 and 1465.

3. and 5 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

To my welbelouyd

Son S^r John Paston

be this deliuer'd in hast.

I Greet yow welle and send yow godds bliffyng and myn latyng yow wet that I haue rec^d a lett^r from you y^e wyche ye deliuer'd to Mastr Rog^r at Lynne wherby I confeyue that ye thynke ye ded not well that ye dep^ttyd hens w^towt my knowlage Wherfor I late yow wett I was ryght euyll payed w^t yow yo^r fad^r thowght and thynkyth yet y^t I was asentyd to yo^r dep^ttyng And that hathe causyd me to have gret heviness J hope he wolle be yo^r goodfad^r heraft^r yf ye demene you welle and do as ye owe to do to hym And I charge you upon my blyffyng y^t in any thnyg towchyng yo^r fad^r y^t shuld be hys worchep p^rfyte or avayle that ye do yo^r deu^r and dylygent labor to y^e fortherans therin as ye wulle haue my good wille and y^t shall cause yo^r fad^r to be bett^r fad^r to you. It was told me ye sent hym a lett^r to london what y^e entent therof was I wot not but thowge he take it but lyghtly I wold ye shuld not spar to write to hym ageyn as lowly as ye cane besechyng hym to be yo^r good fad^r and send hym suche tydyngs as be in the contr['] thir ye bethe in and that ye war of yo^r expe[']ce bettyr and ye haue be befor thys tyme and be yo^r

No one can read this Letter without feeling concern for the displeasure that Sir John had occasioned his Mother by his improper departure; she tenderly blames his conduct, gives him the advice of a kind, affectionate, and sensible parent, and at the same time is anxious to hear of his welfare.

LETTER XLVII.

To my well-beloved Son, Sir John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that I have received a Letter from you, the which ye delivered to Master Roger at Lynn, whereby I conceive that ye think ye did not well that ye departed hence without my knowledge, wherefore I let you weet I was right evil paid with you, your father thought, and thinketh yet, that I was assented to your departing, and that hath caused me to have great heaviness; I hope he will be your good father hereafter, if ye demean you well, and do as ye ought to do to him; and I charge you upon my blessing that in any thing touching your father that should be (*to*) his worship, profit, or avail, that ye do your devoir and diligent labour to the furtherance therein, as ye will have my good will, and that shall cause your father to be better father to you.

It was told me ye sent him a Letter to London, what the intent thereof was I wot not, but though he take it but lightly, I would ye should not spare to write to him again as lowly as ye can, beseeching him to be your good father; and send him such tidings as be in the country there ye be in, and that ye be ware of your expences better and (*than*) ye have been before this

Her account of Jane Walsham's regard for Wykes is natural and pleasing, and interests the Reader in her behalf.

The whole Lettter is written in a clear and easy style, and shews the maternal affection of the Writer for her Son.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 20.

owne purse berer J trowe ye shall fyndyt most p'fytable to you I wold ye shuld send me word howghe ye doo and howghe ye have schevyfte for yo'self syn ye dep'tyd hens be f'm trosty man and that yo'r fad'r have no knowlage therof. J durste not late hym knowe of y^e laste lett'r y^t ye wrot to me be cause he was so for dyspleasyd w^t me at y^t tyme. It' J wold ye shuld speke w^t Wekis and knowe hys dysposyson to Iane Walsh'm she hathe feyd syn he dep'tyd hens but she myght have hym she wold neu^t maryd hyr hert ys for set on hym she told me y^t he feyd to hyr y^t ther was no woman in y^e world he louyd so welle. I wold not he shuld jape hyr for she menythe good feythe and yf he wolle not haue hyr late me wete in hast and I shall p'vey for hyr in othyr wyffe. As for yo'r harneys and ger that ye left her it ys in Daubeneys kepyng it was neu^t remeuyd syn yo'r dep'tyng be cause that he had not y^e keyes I trowe it shall apeyer but if it be take hed hate be tymys yo'r fad'r knowythe not wher it is. I sent yo'r grey hors to Ruston to y^e ferror and he feythe he shull neu^t be nowght to rood nowthyr ryght good to plowe nor to carte he feythe he was splayyd and hys shuld'r rent from y^e body J wot not what to do w^t hym yo'r grandam wold fayne her fū tydyngs from yow it wer welle do y^t ye sent a lett'r to hyr howe ye do as astely as ye may And god have you in hys kepyng and make yow a good man and zyf yow grace to do as well as J wold ye shuld

time, and be your own purse-bearer, I trow ye shall find it most profitable to you.

I would ye should fend me word how ye do, and how ye have shifted for yourself since ye departed hence, by some trusty man, and that your father have no knowledge thereof; I durst not let him know of the last Letter that ye wrote to me, because he was so fore displeased with me at that time.

Item, I would ye should speak with Wykes, and know his disposition to Jane Walsham, she hath said, since he departed hence, but (*unless*) she might have him, she would never (*be*) married, her heart is fore set on him; she told me that he said to her, that there was no woman in the world he loved so well; I would not he should jape (*deceive*) her, for she meaneth good faith; and if he will not have her, let me weet in haste, for I shall purvey for her in other wife.

As for your harness and geer that ye left here, it is in Daubeney's keeping, it was never removed since your departing, because that he had not the keys, I trow it shall apeyer (*grow worse*) but if (*unless*) it be taken heed at betimes; your father knoweth not where it is.

I sent your grey horse to Ruston to the farrier, and he saith he shall never be nought to ride, neither right good to plough nor to cart, he said he was splayed, and his shoulder rent from the body, I wet not what to do with him.

Your Grandam would fain hear some tidings from you; it were well done that ye sent a Letter to her how ye do, as hastily as ye may, and God have you in his keeping, and make you a good man, and give you grace to do well, as I would ye should do.

shuld do Wretyn at Cast' ye Tewisday next befor seynt Edmund
y^e Kynge.

Yo^r. moder

M. Paston.

J wold ye shuld make mech of
y^e p^rson Fylby y^e berer herof
and make hym good cher yf ye
may.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 9.

Paper Mark,

A Bugle Horn strung.

Pl. xxvii. N^o 15.

LETTER XLIII.

To my right good Mayster

S^r John Paston Knyght.

MY right especiall good Mayster J recomand me to yow.
Thankyng you right hertely of your gentell letter late
send to me. And as to Pyncheſter mater &c. J wulde I were
yours nygh kynnesman yef hit plesed god and than shuld I know
yef hit shuld greve your herte asmeche as hit dothe other of my
kynne and Frendes to see me thus Cowardly hurte by Pyncheſ-
ter causeles And of myn entente in y^r mater Wyll'm Rabbes
shall

Written at Caister, the Tuesday next before Saint Edmund
the King, (20th of November.)

Your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

I would ye should make much of the Parson of Filby, the
bearer hereof, and make him good cheer if ye may.

Caister, Tuesday, November,
between 1463 and 1466.
3 and 6 E. IV.

LETTER XLVIII.

To my right good Master Sir John Paston, knight.

MY right special good master, I recommend me to you, thank-
ing you right heartily of your gentle letter late sent to
me; and as to Pinchester's matter, &c. I would I were your nigh
kinsman if it pleased God, and then should I know if it should
grieve your heart as much as it doth other of my kin and friends
to see me thus cowardly hurt and maimed by Pinchester, cause-
less; and of mine intent in that matter William Rabbes shall
tell

shall telle you more all so I beseeche yow to recomand me to my lordes good grace as to hym whom of erthely estates next my dewte J moste love and drede and that shuld he well knowe and hit lay in my power. p'ying you hertely to declare his lordship such mater as Wyll'm Rabbes shall enfourme yow and to send me my lordes answere. All so in asmoche as I understode by yow that money shuld cause you Conclusion in your mater this next terme And ye wull be at london on Monday at Nyght or Tewfday by none I truste y^t J haue studyed such a mene y^t up on Surete as ye may make to gete yow an C li or CC m'rk to be lante un to yow for an halfe yere w^t onte any cheuyfshaunce or losse of good by yow as Wyll'm Rabbes shall telle you more &c. And as to ouyde de arte Amandi J shall send hym you y^s next weke for J have hyt not now redy but me thenkeyth Ouide de remedio were more mete for yow but yef ye purposid to falle hastely in my lady Anne P. lappe as white as whales bon &c. ye be the best chefer of a gentell woman y^t I knowe &c. And I p'y you to recomaunde me to my lord of Oxford and to my goods Maysters Nede'h'm Richemond Chyppenh'm Stavely Bloxh'm Stuard and Jngulton in speciall and all other good mast's and Frendes in generall &c. And f^r Maystres Gaydade recomaud me to yow and said bessyng fare for Charite and she

It is very difficult to fix any date to this Letter, as not only the writer of it, but the persons mentioned in it, are new to us.

The injury sustained by T. Daverse from Pinchefer is likewise inexplicable.

Who is Lady Anne P, and how are we to explain the expression "as white as whale's bone?"

The mention of Ovid's works is curious, and the application humorous and witty.

said

tell you more ; also I beseech you to recommend me to my Lord's good grace, as to him whom of earthly estates next my duty I most love and dread, and that should he well know and it lay in my power, praying you heartily to declare (*to*) his Lordship such matter as William Rabbes shall inform you, and to send me my Lord's answer.

Also in as much as I understand by you that money should cause you conclusion in your matter this next term, and ye would be at London on Monday at night or Tuesday by noon, I trust that I have studied such a mean, that, upon surety as ye may make, to get you an hundred pounds or two hundred marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) to be lent unto you for an half year, without any chevifance or loss of goods by you, as William Rabbes shall tell you more, &c.

And as to Ovid "De Arte Amandi," I shall send him you the next week, for I have him not now ready ; but me thinketh Ovid "De Remedio" were more meet for you, but if (*unless*) ye purposed to fall hastily in my Lady Anne P's lap as white as whale's bone, &c. ye be the best choofer of a gentlewoman that I know, &c. and I pray you to recommend me to my Lady of Oxford, and to my good masters, Needham, Richmond, Chippenham, Staveley, Bloxham, Stuard, and Ingulton in special, and all other good masters and friends in general, &c. And, Sir, Mistress Gaydade recommend me (*q? her*) to you and said buffing fare

The subscription to this Letter is T. D. which is explained by "T. Daverse," being written under the direction, I believe, by the hand of the receiver. Autograph. Pl xxv. N^o 22.

The family of Davers are of considerable standing in the connty of Suffolk, and advanced to the dignity of baronet in 1682.

saide me she wuld fayne haue a new felet &c. Wreten at london
y^s xxix day in Janyver.

W^t hte and f^rvyfe

Your

T. D.

Paper Mark.

A Ring.

Pl. xxii. N^o 17.

LETTER XLII.

*To myn ryght Worshypful
hesbond Iohn Paston be thys
delyveryd in haste.*

RYGH T Worshypful hosbond I rekomaund me on to you
pleasyth you to wete that I sent yist^rday Loveday to
Norwyche to speke wyth the ^r Vykyr of Derh^m for the mater
betwen mast^r Constantyn and hym And he seyth y^t as for that
mater mast^t Constantyn sewyd hym for feyth and trowth brekyng
and he sewyd mast^r Constantyn in the temp[']all Curte uppon an
obligacion of x li. and ther was made appoyntment be twen hem
by

This Letter was written in 1464, about the time that King Henry VI. was taken and committed to the Tower, an order having been issued in May for the Subjects of this kingdom to take arms and attend King Edward. The Commission of Enquiry seems to relate to this order, which most probably was enforced for the more easy discovery of the

for charity, and she said (*to*) me she would fain have a new fillet, &c.

Written at London the 29th day in January,

With heart and service

Your

THOMAS DAVERSE.

London, 29 January,

Between 1463 and 1469.

3 and 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XLIX.

To mine right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me unto you, pleaseth you to weet that I sent yesterday Loveday to Norwich to speak with the ¹ Vicar of Dereham for the matter between Master Constantine and him, and he saith that as for that matter Master Constantine sued him for faith and truth breaking, and he sued Master Constantine in the Temporal Court upon an obligation of ten pounds; and there was made an appointment between them by the advice of both their Counsels,

the unfortunate Prince, who perhaps was by this time lodged in the Tower, as those Gentlemen who had obeyed it, were now dismissed and returned home.

¹ Constantine Dalby was instituted to the Vicarage of East Dereham, in 1451, and was succeeded in 1456 by Robert Sheringham.

VOL. IV.

A a

before

by the advyce of bothe ther Conceylis be for mastr Rob' Popy y^e eche of hem shuld relece othyr and so they dede and the sewtys wer wythdrawyn on bothe p^rtyes and jche of hem aquytaun^cyd othyr and as for any Copy of the plee he had nev^r non Ner he ner mastr John Estegate y^e was hys at^rnay remembryth nat y^e it was regestryd And mastr John Estegate seythe if it schuld be scergyd in the regest^r it wold take a fortenyght werk and yit p^raventur nev^r be the nere^r. Syr Thom's ² Howes hathe ben ryght besy thys weke at Bloofeld in wrytyng and lokyng uppe of ger and John Ruffe hathe ben w^t hym ther the mooste p^rte of alle thys weke And thys daye was Rob' Lynne ther w^t hym what they have do I wote nat but I schal wete if I may It was told me y^e Syr Thom's desyryd of Iohn Ruffe to make hym a new Jnventory of Sr Iohn Fastolffs goods Iohn Ruffe myght not be spoke w^t yit for the lett^r y^e he shuld a wretyn whych ye sente me word of I'm it is tolde y^e the Dwke of ³ Suffolk is kome home and owthyr he is ded or ellys ryght seke and not lyke to eskape And Syr Iohn Howard is kome hom and it is seyde y^e the lord ⁴ Skalys and he have a Comysfyon to enquer whye they of thys Cont' y^e wer Sent for kame not hastrylar uppe afftyr they wer sent for It is reportyd y^e the kyng is gretly dyspleasyd ther w^t At the rev^ence of God arme yowr selve as myghtyly as ye

² J. Paston and Thomas Howes had at this time disagreed about the executorship of Sir John Fastolf's Will.

before Master Robert Popy, that each of them should release (*the*) other, and so they did, and the sureties were withdrawn on both parties, and each of them acquitted other; and as for any Copy of the plea he had never none, nor he nor Master John Estgate, that was his Attorney, remembereth not that it was registered; and Master John Estgate saith, if it should be searched in the Register it would take a fortnight's work, and yet peradventure never be the nearer.

Sir Thomas ² Howes hath been right busy this week at Blofield, in writing and looking up of geer, and John Ruffe hath been with him there the most part of all this week, and this day was Robert Lynne there with him; what they have done I wot not, but I shall weet if I may.

It was told me, that Sir Thomas desired of John Ruffe to make him a new Inventory of Sir John Fastolf's Goods; John Ruffe might not be spoken with yet, for the Letter that he should have written, which ye sent me word of.

Item, it is told that the Duke of ³ Suffolk is come home, and either he is dead, or else right sick, and not like to escape; and Sir John Howard is come home; and it is said that the Lord ⁴ Scales and he have a Commission to enquire, why they of this country that were sent for, came not hastilier up after they were sent for.

It is reported that the King is greatly displeased therewith. At the reverence of God arm yourself as mightily as ye can

³ John, Duke of Suffolk, did not die till 1491.

⁴ Anthony Widville was created Lord Scales in 1461.

kan ageyn yowr ⁵ enmyes for I know verrayly y^t they wyl do ageyn yow as myghtyly as they kan w^t all ther power it is told me y^t Syr Thom's shal kom uppe in hafte and othyr fuche as he kan make for hys p'tye Also for goddys sake be war what medefyns ye take of any ⁶ fyfissyans of London I schal nev^r trust to hem be cause of your fadr and myn Onkyl whoys sowlis God Affoyle The bliffyd trynyte have yow in hys kepyng and sende yow helthe and good spede in all yowr mat'ris Wretyn in hafte on the Fryday next befor sceynt Bernabye.

By yowrs

⁷ M. P.

Alle the Jentylmen of thys contre y^t went uppe to the Kyng ar contrmaundyd and ar com home ageyn. It is told me y^t ⁸ Rowse of Suffolk is ded. If Iohn Gayn myght have any releese of his sone if it myght do hym ese it wer a good torne for hym.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bugle Horn strung.

Pl. xxvii. N^o 15.

⁵ These may either mean those Enemies which the affairs of Sir John Fastolf had caused him, or those which the national disputes had occasioned.

⁶ How her Father and her uncle had suffered from London Physicians does not appear.

12 M. P.

against your ⁵ enemies, for I know verily that they will do again you as mightily as they can with all their power.

It is told me that Sir Thomas shall come up in haste, and other such as he can make for his party.

Also for God's sake beware what Medicines ye take of any ⁶ Physicians of London; I shall never trust to them because of your Father and mine Uncle, whose Souls God affoil!

The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping, and fend you health and good speed in all your matters. Written in haste, on the Friday next before Saint Barnabas.

By yours

⁷ MARGARET PASTON.

All the Gentlemen of this Country that went up to the King are countermanded, and are come home again. It is told me that ⁸ Rous of Suffolk is dead; if John Gayn might have any release of his Son, if it might do him ease, it were a good turn for him.

Friday, 8th June,
1464. 4 E. IV.

⁷ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25. Seal. Pl. xiv. N^o 4.

⁸ Reginald Rous, Esq. of Denington, in Suffolk, died in 1464, and from him the present Sir John Rous, Bart. of Henham, in Suffolk, is lineally descended.

NUMBER.

Apunctuament' Regis pr fundacōne Collegij apd Caiſtre, &c.

THE Kyng for the ſoume of CCC mark of lawfull mony of Ingland or of ſiluer plate to the valew therof g'untith to John Paſton the older ſquier to haue licens lawfully mad to make and found a College of vij preſts and vij pore folk at Caſter in Flegge in Norff for the ſoule of Sir Iohn Faſtolf knyght thei to be indued with certeyn Rent and otherwiſe aftir the intent and effect as is ſpeciſyd in a bille therof ſigned by the kyng and that he ſhall ſhewe his good graſe favo^r and aſſiſtence to haue the ſeid fundacon inacted and auctorifed in the p^rlement next holden and Diſcharge the ſeid John Paſton and the ſeid preſts of any other fyne or fee to be mad in the Chaunc'ie for the ſeid fundacon And that the kyng ſhall ſigne and g'unt warants for ſeid licens and ſhewe his good g'ce and favo^r in the expedition therof what tyme he be ſued to therfore by the ſeid Iohn Paſton.

Alſo the Kyng g'untith to be good and favorabill lord to the ſeid John Paſton and inefpeciall in all thyngs touchyng the execucon of the will of the ſeid ſir Iohn Faſtolf and alſo to be good and favorabill lord to the ſeid Iohn Paſton in ſupportyng and helpyng

From this Appointment of the King it appears that Grants for foundations of religious eſtabliſhments were made one mean of raiſing money for the ſervice of the crown; and that the royal protection was likewiſe obtained by a preſent of money or plate.

Whether the terms, by which the King's favour was now to be procured, were fulfilled by John Paſton, or whether his Maſteſty had any reaſons for withdrawing his protection, does

N U M B E R L.

Appointment of the King for the Foundation of a College at Caiſter, &c.

THE King, for the ſum of 300 marks (200*l.*) of lawful money of England, or of ſilver plate to the value thereof, granteth to John Paſton the elder, Eſquire, to have licence, lawfully made, to make and found a College of ſeven Priests and ſeven poor folk at Caiſter, in Flegg (*hundred*) in Norfolk, for the Soul of Sir John Faſtolf, Knight; they to be endued with certain rent, and otherwiſe after the intent and effect as is ſpecified in a bill thereof, ſigned by the King; and that he ſhall ſhew his good grace, favour, and aſſiſtance to have the ſaid foundation enacted and authoriſed in the Parliament next holden, and diſcharge the ſaid John Paſton and the ſaid Priests of any other fine or fee to be made in the Chancery for the ſaid foundation, and that the King ſhall ſign and grant warrants for the ſaid licence, and ſhew his good grace and favour in the expedition thereof, what time he be ſued to therefore by the ſaid John Paſton.

Alſo, the King granteth to be good and favourable Lord to the ſaid John Paſton, and in eſpecial in all things touching the execution of the Will of the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf, and alſo to be good and favourable Lord to the ſaid John Paſton, in ſupporting

does not appear, but in the following year the royal favour was forfeited, and J. Paſton was a priſoner by the King's command.

For his Maſteſty's ſignature, ſee Pl. iv. N^o 1. and Pl. xxiv. N^o 1.

During this year the King was moving from place to place, and by condeſcenſion and affability acquiring popularity.

helpyng hym in that the kyngs highnesse may lawfully do in such maters as are in debate athwyx the seid John Paston and Will'm Yeluton or Will'm Ienney or any other concernyng the londs and ten'ts, goods or catell, that were the seid sir John Fastolfs Also the Kyng g'untith to help and support the seid John Paston to opteyne and haue to the vse of the seid sir John Fastolf such goods as were the seid Fastolfs Defeitlefully aloyned out of the possession and knowlech of the seid John Paston and that the Kyng shall g'unt the seid John Paston such lawfull wrytynggs and lettirs from the Kyng Directed to such p'sones as shall be behovefull for the same what tyme the seid John Paston suyth to the Kyngs highnesse therefore.

Also where Yeluton or Ienney or any Iustise of the peas of the shire of Suff. hath recorded any Riot trespass or offenses to be Do ayens the Kyngs peas by the seid John Paston his s'v'nts or ten'nts or frends or where any inditement or p'sentment is found ayens them or any of them before any of the seid Iustises for any such Riot offenses trespass or for any other mater remaynyng of record in the kyngs benche or in any other plase the kyng g'untith to the seid John Paston and all other p'sones named in the seid records or inditements or in any of hem and to alle her boroughs and pleggs and to ich of them that woll sue it a pardon of all Riotes trespass offenses felonys forfeitures doon ayens the kyngs peas And of fynes therefore dempt or to be dempt and of all other thyngs gen'ally treason except and that the kyng shall signe warants lawfull of the seid p'dons what tyme his highnesse be requerid by the seid John Paston or his attornys.

And

and helping him, in that the King's highness may lawfully do, in such matters as are in debate atwixt the said John Paston and William Yelverton, or William Jenney, or any other, concerning the lands and tenements, goods or chattels, that were the said Sir John Fastolf's; also the King granteth to help and support the said John Paston to obtain and have to the use of the said Sir John Fastolf such goods as were the said Fastolf's deceitfully aloyned (*removed*) out of the possession and knowledge of the said John Paston, and that the King shall grant the said John Paston such lawful writings and letters from the King, directed to such persons as shall be behoveful for the same, what time the said John Paston sueth to the King's highness therefore.

Also where Yelverton, or Jenney, or any Justice of the Peace of the Shire of Suffolk hath recorded any riot, trespass or offences to be done against the King's peace, by the said John Paston, his servants, or tenants, or friends; or where any indictment or presentment is found against them, or any of them, before any of the said Justices, for any such riot, offences, trespasss, or for any other matter remaining of record in the King's Bench, or in any other place, the King granteth to the said John Paston, and all other persons named in the said records or indictments, or in any of them, and to all their boroughs (*sureties*) and pledges, and to each of them that will sue it, a pardon of all riots, trespassses, offences, felonies, forfeitures done against the King's peace, and of fines therefore dempt (*adjudged*), or to be dempt, and of all other things generally, treason except, and that the King shall sign warrants lawful of the said pardons, what time his highness be required by the said John Paston or his Attorneys.

And also that his highnesse shall do inquere and examiacon be mad whedir the seid record of the seid Iustices and p'sentments and other informacons or compleynts mad ayens the seid Iohn Paston were do trewly and lawfully or nought and if it be found that thei were do otherwise thanne thought lawe or Consiens woll thanne the kyng g'untyth to cause the Doers therof to recompense the seid Iohn Paston and the seid other p'sones as far as lawe and good consiens woll in that behalf.

And that if it fortune any compleynt to be mad ayens the seid John Paston by any p'sone in tyme Comyng to the Kyng that he shall take no Displeasir to the seid John Paston till the tyme he come to his answer and be found in Default.

And that the kyng shall resseyve an C li of the seid CCC m'rk what tyme he send for it and the remnaunt as sone as the seid fundacon take effect and also that his highnesse shall gete the assent of the reu'ent fader in god the archebishop of Caunt'bury in such apoyntmēts as is mad athwyx the Kyng and the said John Paston of such goods as were the seid sir John Fastolfs for the Deliu'e therof and that if the seid Iohn Paston refuse the administracon of the goods and catell that were the seid sir Iohn Fastolfs sufferyng other to take it opon hem the Kyng at the instauns of the seid John Paston g'untith to be good and favorabill lord to such other as the coors of the lawe and assent of the seid John Paston shall take the seid administracon in execucon of the seid Fastolfs will touchyng the administracon of the goods and catell forseid acordyng to the same wyll and that the Kyng shall not cleyme nor desire any of the londs or ten'ts goods or catell that were

And also that his highness shall do (*cause*) enquiry and examination (*to*) be made whether the said record of the said Justices and presentments, and other informations or complaints made against the said John Paston, were done truly and lawfully or not; and if it be found that they were done otherwise than truth, law, or conscience will, then the King granteth to cause the doers thereof to recompence the said John Paston, and the said other persons, as far as law and good conscience will in that behalf.

And that if it fortune any complaint to be made against the said John Paston, by any person in time coming, to the King, that he shall take no displeasure to the said John Paston till the time he come to his answer, and be found in default.

And that the King shall receive an hundred pounds of the said 300 marks, what time he send for it, and the remanent as soon as the said foundation take effect; and also that his highness shall get the assent of the reverend father in God, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in such appointments as is made atwixt the King and the said John Paston of such goods as were the said Sir John Fastolf's, for the delivery thereof, and that if the said John Paston refuse the administration of the goods and chattels that were the said Sir John Fastolf's, suffering other to take it upon them, the King, at the instance of the said John Paston, granteth to be good and favourable Lord to such other (*as*), by the course of the law, and assent of the said John Paston, shall take the said administration in execution of the said Fastolf's Will, touching the administration of the goods and chattels aforesaid, according to the same Will, and that the King shall not claim nor desire any of the lands or tenements, goods or chattels that

were the seid Sir John Fastolf ayens the seid Iohn Paston or any other executor administ'or or fesse of the seid Sir John Fastolf nor support or favo^r any other p^rson in cleymyng any of the seid londs or ten'ts goods or catell ayens any the seid administ'ers executores or fesses.

And the Kyng g'untith that where as this bille is not sufficiently mad in claus'es and termes accordyng to thentent therof that his highnesse woll take and execute the very entent therof notwithstanding the insufficiens of any such termes and claus'es in thes bille Wretyn at Marleburgh the Monday next after the natiuite of oure lady the fourthe yere of the reigne of the Kyng.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. No 3.

L E T T E R L I J.

*To my rytz Wurcheppfull
Maystr Iohn Paston in hast.*

RYT wurfchipfull hosbond I r'cōmand me to z^u desyñg her-tyly to her of z^r Wellfar p^ryīg z^u to wete y^t I spoken w^t Strawngs Wyf of y^e matt^r y^t ze spoken to me of And sche feyth pleyndly to me be her feyth y^t sche knew nev^r non feche n' nev^r herd of non scheche and told to me in lyk wyse as sche had feyd

The exact year when this Letter was written cannot be determined, but it must have been during J. Paston's troubles in the latter part of his life, between 1464 and 1466.

to

were the said Sir John Fastolf's against the said John Paston or any other executor, administrator, or feoffee of the said Sir John Fastolf, nor support or favour any other person in claiming any of the said lands or tenements, goods or chattels, against any of the said administrators, executors, or feoffees.

Also the King granteth that whereas this bill is not sufficiently made in clauses and terms according to the intent thereof, that his highness will take and execute the very intent thereof, notwithstanding the insufficiency of any such terms and clauses in this bill. Written at Marlborough, the Monday next after the Nativity of our Lady, the fourth year of the reign of the King.

Marlborough, Wiltshire,
Monday, 10th of September,
1464. 4 E. IV.

L E T T E R LI.

To my right worshipful Master John Paston, in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet, that I have spoken with ¹ Strange's wife of the matter that ye spoken to me of, and she saith plainly to me by her faith, that she knew never none such nor never heard of none such, and (*she*) told to me in like wise as she had said to James Gloys,

¹ The very ancient and respectable Family of Strange or L'Estrange, of Hunstanton, in Norfolk, failing in the male line about twenty years ago, the ample possessions of that House are now divided between the Families of Astley and Styleman, whose Mothers were Sisters to Sir Thomas and Sir Henry L'Estrange, Baronets.

and

to Jamys Gloys And fche feyd to me if fche kowd jnq'r of any
 oy^r y^t fche yinght xuld have knowleche of any feche fche
 xuld wetyn of hem and letyn me have knowleche y'of. And jf
 ze foppose y^t any oy^r be jn yis contr' y^t ye thync xuld have
 knowleche of yis forseyd mat^r. yf ye wyll fend me word ther of
 I xall do my p't ther in Also I have ben att Sweyngsthorp and
 spoken w^t kokett and he seyth y^t he woll don lyche as ye bad me
 y^t I xuld fey to hym for to don And I have spokyn w^t y^e
 Sexteyn and feyd to hym as ye bad me that I xuld don and he
 axid me ryt feythfully hw ye sped jn z^r mat'ys I teld hym y^t ze
 haddyn fayr be hefts and I feyd I hopyd y^t ze xuld don rytz well
 y'jn And he feyd he supposyd y^t ² D. wold don for z^u but he feyd
 he was no hasty laborer jn non mat^r he feyd be hys feyth he wost
 qher a man was y^t laboryd to hym for amat^r ryth along tym and
 alwey he be heftyd y^t he wold labor itt effectualy but qhyll he
 fewyd to hym he kowd nev^r have r'medy of his mat^r and than
 qhan he yowth y^t he xuld no remedy have to few to hym he spak
 w^t ³ Fynys y^t is now Spek^r of y^e parlment and p'yid hym y^t he
 wold don for hym in his mat^r and zaf hym areward And w'jnne
 ryth short tym aft^r his mat^r was sped and y^e feyd ⁴ Sexteyn and
 oy^r folkys y^t ben yowr ryth wele willers have kownfelyd me y^t I
 xuld kownfell z^u to maken oy^r menys yan ye have made to
 other folks y^t wold spede y^r mat'ys bett^r yan they have don.

² Perhaps this may mean John Damme, a person often mentioned in these Letters, and who was Member of Parliament for the City of Norwich, in 1451.

³ It does not appear what relation this Fynes was to Sir Richard Fynes, who married Joan, Daughter and heir of Lord Dacre of the South, by which title in her right he was summoned to Parliament in 1459.

The Reward given to Fynes seems previous to his being elected Speaker of the Parliament.

and she said to me if she could enquire of any other that she thought should have knowledge of any such, she should weten of them, and letten me have knowledge thereof; and if ye suppose that any other be in this Country that ye think should have knowledge of this foresaid matter, if ye will send me word thereof, I shall do my part therein.

Also I have been at Swainsthorp and spoken with Cocket, and he saith that he will do like as ye bad me that I should say to him for to do. And I have spoken with the Sexteyn (*Sexton*) and said to him as ye bad me that I should do, and he asked me right faithfully how ye sped in your matters.

I told him that ye had fair behests, and I said, I hoped that ye should do right well therein; and he said he supposed that ²D would do for you; but he said, he was no hasty labourer in none matter, he said by his faith he wist where a man was that laboured to him for a matter right a long time, and always he behested that he would labour it effectually; but while he sued to him he could never have remedy of his matter, and then when he thought that he should no remedy have to sue to him, he spake with ³Fynes that is now Speaker of the Parliament, and prayed him that he would do for him in his matter, and gave him a reward; and within right short time after his matter was sped; and, the said ⁴Sexteyn and other folks that be your right well-willers have counfelled me that I should counsel you to make other means than ye have made to other folks, that would speed

⁴ The Sacrist or Sexton of the Priory of Norwich, was the officer who had the care of the Sacra, or Holy Things, as the Church Plate, Copes, &c. he was likewise Secretary, Auditor, and Chancellor of the Convent, and had a Subfacrist or Deputy to perform the servile parts of his office. In 1444 Brother Richard de Walsingham was appointed Sacrist.

your

yatt ye have spoken to y^{of} be for this tym Sondery folks have
 feyd to me that they yynk veryly but if ye have my lord of
 5 Suffolk's godelorchyp qhyll ye werd is as itt is ye kan nev^r
 leven jn pefe w^t owth ye have his godelordschep therfor I p^y
 y^u w^t all myn herth y^t ye wyll don yowr p^t to have hys gode-
 lordschep and his love jn ese of all the mat^{'is} that ye have to don
 and jn esyng of myn hert also For be my trowth j am afferd
 ellys bothen of these mat^{'y} the qhyche ye have jn hand now
 and of other that ben not don to yett but if he wyl don for z^u
 and be y^r godelord I pray yow hertylye send me werd how ze
 don and how ye speden jn z^r mat^{'ys} and j p^y y^u as for feche
 th^ygs as Iamys hath abyll of y^t jmay have hem as haftyly as ze
 may and y^t ze wyll vowchesave to bey apese of blak bukram for
 to lyn w^t a gown for me I xuld bey me amurrey gown to gon
 in this fom^r and leyn in the koler the Satyn y^t ze zeve me for an
 hodde and I kan gettyn non gode bokeram in y^{is} town to lyn it
 w^t The holy t^{'nyte} have yow in his kepyng and send z^u helth
 and good spede in all yowr mat^{'is} Wretyn att Norwyche on ye
 Fryday nexst aft^r 6 Crowchemesse day.

Yowrys

7 M. P.

11 by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
 A Globe and Crofs.
 Pl. xxvi. N^o 3.

5 John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

LET.

your matters better than they have done that ye have spoken to thereof before this time. Sundry folks have said to me, that they think verily but if (*unless*) ye have my Lord of ⁵ Suffolk's good Lordship while the werd (*world*) is as it is, ye can never live in peace without ye have his good lordship; therefore I pray you with all mine heart, that ye will do your part to have his good lordship and his love in ease of all those matters that ye have to do, and in easing of mine heart also, for by my truth I am afraid else, both of these matters the which ye have in hand now, and of other that be not done to yet, but if (*unless*) he will do for you and be your good Lord. I pray you heartily send me word how ye do, and how ye speed in your matters; and I pray you as for such things as James hath a bill of, that I may have them as hastily as ye may; and that ye will vouchsafe to buy a piece of black buckram for to line with a gown for me, I should buy me a murrey gown to go in this Summer, and lay in the collar the satin that ye gave me for an hood; and I can get none good buckram in this town to line it with. The Holy Trinity have you in his keeping, and send you health and good speed in all your matters.

Written at Norwich, on the Friday next after ⁶ Crouchmas day.

Yours

⁷ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Friday,

May, between 1464 and 1466.

4 and 6 E. IV.

⁶ Crouchmas day, or the Invention of the Cross, was on the 3d of May.

⁷ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

LETTER LIII.

*To my ryth Worcheppfull
husbond Ion Paston be
thys delyv'yd in hast.*

RYTH Worcheppfull husbonde I recomand me to yow ple-
fyth it yow to weet that I receyvyd yowyr lett^r y^t ye sent
me by nycolas Colman on Sonday last past and as for the mater
y^t ye desyiryd me to breke of to my Cosyn rokwoode it fortunyd
so y^t he came to me on Sonday to dyner sone aftyr y^t I had yowyr
lett^r and when we had dynyd I mevyd to hym ther of in covert
termys as playt^r shall informe yow eraftyr and as I thowt by
hym and so ded playt^r also by the langwage y^t he had to us
y^t he wold be as feythfull as he kowd or myte be to that good
lorde y^t ye wrot of and to yow also in ony th̄ge y^t he kowde or
myte do in case wer y^t he wer set in offyse so y^t he myth owte
do and ther to he seyde he wolde be bownde in a mⁱ li. and he
was so myche worthe as for the todyr y^t ye desyiryd I scholde
meve to of the same mat^r me semyth he is to yonge to take ony
fwhyche thyngys up on hym and also I knowe v^ryly y^t he scholl
nev^r love feythfully the todyr man that ye desyiryd y^t he schuld
do for when he rembryth the tyme y^t is paste and ther for I spak
not to hym ther of thys day was holde a gret day at Okyll befor
the undyr schreve and the undyr excheter for the mat^r of fyr Ion
Fastolfys londys and ther was my Cosyn rookwod and my Cosyn
Ion Berney of Redh'm and dyv's odyr jentylmen and thryfty
men

L E T T E R LII.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that I received your Letter, that ye sent me by Nicholas Colman on Sunday last past; and as for the matter that ye desired me to break of to my Cousin Rookwood, it fortuneth so that he came to me on Sunday to dinner, soon after that I had your Letter, and when we had dined, I moved to him thereof in covert terms, as Playters shall inform you hereafter; and as I thought by him, and so did Playters also, by the language that he had to us, that he would be as faithful as he could or might be to that good Lord that ye wrote of, and to you also, in any thing that he could or might do, in case were that he were set in office so that he might ought do, and thereto he said he would be bound in a 1000*l.* and (*if*) he were so much worth.

As for the other, that ye desired I should move to of the same matter, me seemeth he is too young to take any such things upon him, and also I know verily that he shall never love faithfully the other man, that ye desired that he should do for, when he remembereth the time that is past, and therefore I spake not to him thereof.

This day was holden a great day at Okyll (*Acle*) before the Under Sheriff and the Under Escheator of the matter of Sir John Fastolf's Lands, and there was my Cousin Rookwood, and my Cousin John Berney, of Reedham, and divers other gentlemen,

men of the contr^r and the mat^r is well sped after your intent
 blyssyd be god as ye schall have knowlage of in haft I suppose
 playt^r schall be w^t you on Sunday or on monday next comyng if
 he may ye have many good prayers of the poer pepyl y^t god
 schuld sped you at thys p^rement for they leve in hope y^t ye
 schold helpe to set a wey y^t they myte leve in bett^r pefe in thys
 contre^r thane they have do befor and y^t ¹ Wollys schold be p^r-
 veyd for y^t they schuld not go owt of thys lond as it hathe be
 suffryd to do be for and thane schall the poer pepyll more leve
 bettyr thane they have do by her ocwpacon ther in Thom's Bone
 hathe falde all your wole her for xx^d a stone and goode swerte
 fownd to you ther for to be payid a myhellmas next comyng and
 it is folde ryth well after y^t the wole was for the moste part was
 ryte febyll It^r ther be bowt for you iij horse at seynt ² feythys
 feyr and all be trotterys ryth fayir horse god save hem and they
 be well kepyd It^r your mylls at Heylysdō be late for xij marke
 and the myller to fynde the reparacon and rycharde Calle hathe
 let all your londys at Cast^r but as for mawtby londys they be not
 let yet Wyll^m Whyte hathe payid me a geyne thys daye hys
 x li. and I have mad hym a qwetans ther of be cause I had not
 hys oblygacon Ther is gret talkyng in thys contre of the desyir of
 my lorde of ³ York the pepyll reporte full worchepfully of my

This Letter discovers to us some of the politics of the times, probably when the Earl of Warwick had taken displeasure at the King's marriage, and informs us that the Yorkists were fearful that too much lenity might be shewn to the Lancastrians; to what good Lord Margaret Paston and her Husband wished her Cousin Rookwood to be faithful is not mentioned, it probably was to the Duke of Norfolk.

and thrifty men of the country, and the matter is well sped after your intent, blessed be God! as ye shall have knowledge of in haste.

I suppose Playters shall be with you on Sunday or on Monday next coming if he may; ye have many good prayers of the poor people that God should speed you at this Parliament, for they live in hope that ye should help to set a way that they might live in better peace in this Country than they have done before, and that¹ Wools should be purveyed for, that they should not go out of this land, as it hath been suffered to do before, and then shall the poor people more live better than they have done by their occupation therein. Thomas Bone hath sold all your Wool here for 20*d.* a stone, and good surety found to you therefore to be paid at Michaelmas next coming, and it is sold right well after that (*because*) the wool was for the most part right feeble.

Item, there be bought for you three horses at Saint² Faith's Fair, and all be trotters, right fair horses, God save them, and they be well kept.

Item, your Mills at Helleston be let for twelve marks (8*l.*) and the Miller to find the reparation; and Richard Calle hath let all your lands at Caister, but as for Mawtby lands they be not let yet. William White hath paid me again this day his 10*l.* and I have made him an acquittance thereof, because I had not his obligation.

There is great talking in this country of the desire of my Lord of³ York, the people report full worshipfully of my Lord of

¹ We find by this Letter that the exportation of wool was an hardship upon the poor, who by that means were deprived of work in that branch of the manufacture which affected their spinning, &c.

² There is at this time a considerable Fair at this place.

³ George Nevil became Archbishop of York in 1464, and died in 1476.

lord of ⁴ Warwyk they have no fer her but y^t he and othyr
 fcholde fchewe to gret favor to hem y^t have be rewyllerys of thys
 contre be for tyme I have done all yowyr erandys to Syr Thom's
 Howes y^t ye wrote to me for I ame ryth glade y^t ye have fped
 welle in yowyr materys be twyx fyr Fylyp Wentworthe and yow
 and fo I p'y god ye may do in all othyr mat'ys to hys plesans as
 for the wryt̄ygys y^t ye defyiryd y^t Playt^r fchulde fende yow
 rycharde Call told me y^t they wer at Herry Barborys at the tem-
 pyll Gate the ⁵ mayir and the mayires fent hedyr her dynerys
 thys day and Ion Dame came w^t hem and they dynyd her I am
 beholde to hem for they have fent to me dyv's tymys fythe ye
 yed henfe the meyr feyth y^t ther is no lentylman in Northefolk
 y^t he woll do more for thane he wole for yow if it laye in hys
 poer to do for yow ⁶ J Perfe is ftylle in p^rfone but he wolle not
 confefe mor thane he ded when ye wer at home Edmond Brome
 was w^t me and tolde me y^t perfe fent for hym for to come fpek
 w^t hym and he tolde me y^t he was w^t hym and examynyd hym
 but he wold not be a knowe to hym y^t he hade no knowlage wher
 no goode was of hys maft^rys more thane he hade knowlageyd
 to yow he tolde me y^t he fent for hym to defyir hym to labor to
 yow and to me for hym if ye had be at home and he tolde me y^t
 he

⁴ Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, was flain at the battle of Barnet, in 1471.

⁵ As the exact date of the year of this Letter cannot be afcertaind, we cannot deter-
 mine who this Mayor of Norwich was, though it muft have been either John Gilbert,
 Thomas Ellis, or John Chytock. John Damme had been the Recorder, and might per-
 haps be fo now.

⁶ What offence Perfe had committed does not appear, nor can I underftand the expref-
 fion "that the Dede may have part of hys owne Goode." An ingenious Friend fuggelted
 the

⁴ Warwick, they have no fear here but that he and other should shew too great favour to them that have been rulers of this country before time.

I have done all your errands to Sir Thomas Howes that ye wrote to me for; I am right glad that ye have sped well in your matters betwixt Sir Philip Wentworth and you, and so I pray God ye may do in all other matters to his pleasance (*pleasure*).

As for the writings that ye desired that Playters should send you, Richard Calle told me that they were at Harry Barber's, at the Temple Gate.

The ⁵ Mayor and the Mayorefs sent hither their dinners this day, and John Damme came with them, and they dined here; I am beholden to them for they have sent to me divers times since ye yed (*went*) hence; the Mayor saith that there is no gentleman in Norfolk that he would do more for than he would for you, if it lay his power to do for you.

⁶ J. Perse is still in prison, but he will not confess more than he did when ye were at home. Edmund Brome was with me, and told me that Perse sent for him for to come and speak with him, and he told me that he was with him and examined him, but he would not be a knowe (*acknowledge*) to him, that he had no knowledge where no goods was of his Master's more than he had knowledged to you; he told me that he sent for him to desire him to labour to you and to me for him if ye had been at home;

the following explanation: might not Perse have murdered some one and secreted his goods, which he refuses to acknowledge, but part of which, if they had been discovered would have been disposed off for the benefit of the Soul of the deceased, in procuring Masses, &c. to be sung for him, so that in fact by these means *the dead might be said to have part of his own goods*.

This explanation will appear perhaps far-fetched, but it is adduced solely with a hope that it might prove a clue to a discovery of the real meaning of this passage.

and

he feyd to hym a yen y^t he wold nev^r labor for hym but he myth know y^t he wer trwe to hys mastryr thow it lay in hys power to do ryth myche for hym I suppose it schulde do none harme thow the feyd Perfe wer remevyd ferther I p'y to Gode yeve g'ce y^t the trowthe may be knowe and that the dede may have part of hys ow'ne goode and the blyssyd t'nyte have yow in hys kep̄yng Wretyn ī haſt at Heylyſden the tueſday next aſtyr ſeynt lwke.

By yowyr

7 M. P.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bull.

Pl. ix. N° 10.

7 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal, a Fleur de Lys. Pl. xiv. N° 4.

LETTER LIII.

*To my ryght Wyrshypfull
huſbond Iohn Paſton by
thys delyv'y in haſt.*

PLEASE it you to wyte that on Sato'rday laſt your ſerv'nts Naunton Wyks and other wer at Drayton and ther toke a dyſtreſſe for the rent and ferm that was to pay to the nomber of lxxvij nete and ſo broght them hom to Haylleſdon and put hem in the Pynfold and ſo kept hem ſtyll ther from the feyd
ſato'r

and he told me, that he said to him again, that he would never labour for him but (*unless*) he might know that he were true to his Master, though it lay in his power to do right much for him; I suppose it should do none harm though the said Perse were removed further. I pray to God give grace that the truth may be known, and that the dead may have part of his own goods, and the blessed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written in haste, at Helleston, the Tuesday next after Saint Luke.

By yours

7 MARGARET PASTON.

Helleston,
Tuesday, October,
between 1464 and 1466.
4 and 6 E. IV.

L E T T E R LIII.

*To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this
delivered in haste.*

PLEASE it you to weet, that on Saturday last your servants Naunton, Wykes, and others were at Drayton, and there took a distress for the rent and farm that was to pay, to the number of seventy-seven neat (*beasts*), and so brought them home to Helleston, and put them in the Pinfold, and so kept them still

VOL. IV.

D d

there

fato'r day mornynge un to monday at iij at Clok at after non Fyrst on the same fat'or day the ten'nts folwyd uppon and desyryd to have ther Catell ayen and I awunsweryd hem yf they wold do pay such dewts as they oght for to pay to you that then they shold have ther Catell delyv'yd ayen or els yf they wer not a power to pay redy money that then they to fynd suffycyant suerty to pay the money at such a day as they mygh agrye w' me and therto to be bonden to you by obligacyon and that they seyde they durst not for to take uppon hem for to be bonden And as for money they had non for to pay at that tyme and therfor I kept styll the bestys. Harleston was at Norwych and send for the ten'nts the seyde fato'r day at after non and ther by the menys of the Bayllyf of Coshay put the ten'nts in such feer sayng that yf they wold pay such dewts or els for to be bonden to pay that then they wold put hem owte of such londs as they huld bondly of the lordshyp and so to dysstrayn hem and trobell hem that they shuld be wery of ther part and that put hem such feer that they drust nother pay nor be bonden and on the same day at evynsong time Harleston Com to me to Haylesdon desyryng me that I wold delyv' a yen the seyde dystresse and as for such dystressys as they had taken here of your ten'nts shold be delyv'yd a yen in lyke forme and I seyde I wold not delyv' hem soo and I told hem

I have given this Letter as containing not only the whole procefs of a Replevin, but likewise to shew the disagreeable situation the Tenants of the Lands and Manors were put into when the Landlords and Lords of Manors disagreed.

Drayton and Helleston had been the Manors of Sir John Fastolf, and were now by his death in the possession of John Paston, as one of his Executors and Trustees; this Letter there-

there from the said Saturday Morning unto Monday three at clock at afternoon. First on the same Saturday the Tenants followed upon, and desired to have their Cattle again; and I answered them if they would do pay such dewts (*debts* or *dues*), as they ought for to pay to you, that then they should have their cattle delivered again; or else if they were not a power (*were not able*) to pay ready money, that then they to find sufficient surety to pay the money at such a day as they might agree with me, and there to to be bounden to you by obligation; and that they said they durst not for to take upon them for to be bounden, and as for money they had none for to pay at that time, and therefore I kept still the beasts.

Harleston was at Norwich, and sent for the Tenants the said Saturday at afternoon, and there, by the means of the Bailiff of Cossey, put the Tenants in such fear, saying that if they would pay such debts, or else for to be bounden to pay, that then they would put them out of such lands as they held bondly of the Lordship, and so to distrain them and trouble them, that they should be weary of their part; and that put them (*in*) such fear that they durst neither pay nor be bounden.

And on the Sunday at even-song time Harleston came to me to Hellefdon, desiring me that I would deliver again the said distresses; and as for such distresses as they had taken here of your Tenants (*they*) should be delivered again in like form; and I said I would not deliver them so, and told them that I would

therefore must have been written after Sir John's decease. A Replevin is a Writ (*Replegiare de averiis*) brought by one whose Cattle are distrained, or put in pound upon any cause by another, upon surety given to the Sheriff to pursue, or answer the action at law.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

D d 2

deliver

hem that I wold delyv^r hem as ys Wryten a fore and other wyse not and other wyse I wold not delyv^r hem but by the form of lawe and other Comynycacyon was had by twene us at that tyme of dyv's maters whych wer to long to wryte at thys tyme but ye shall have knowlych therof in hast and on Monday next after at ix at Clok ther com Pynchemor to Haylesdon w^t a replevyn whych was made in Harleston ys name as Understewerd of the Duche sayng that the bests were taken uppon the Duche fee wherfor he desyryd me to mak hym lev'y of the seyde bests so taken and seyde I wold not delyv^r hem on to the tyme that I had examenyd the ten'nts of the trowgh and so I send theder Wyks w^t Pynchemor to understond what they wold say and the ten'nts seyde that ther was taken non uppon the Duch' at ther knowlych save only Pyrs Warryn the yonger and Paynter seyde that ther Catell was taken uppon the Duche whych they connot p've by non record save only by ther awyn sayng and so we wold not A bey that replevyn and so they dep'tyd and at iij at Clock at after non Pynchemor com to Haylesdon a yen w^t ij men whych broght w^t hem a replevyn from the shyryff whos namys be Iohn Whytherley and Robert Ranson whych requyryd me by the same replevyn to make them delyv'y of the seyde bestys taken at Drayton and so I fyyng the Shyryffs Replevyn and under hys seale bade my men delyv^r hem and soo they wer delyv'yd and as for all other maters that ye have wretyn to of I wyll spede me to send you a Awnswer as hastely as I may for I may no leyfor have to
wryte

deliver them as is written afore and otherwise not, and otherwise I would not deliver them but by the form of law. And other communication was had between us at that time of divers matters, which were too long to write at this time, but ye shall have knowledge thereof in haste.

And on Monday next after at nine at clock there came Pynchemore to Hellefdon with a Replevin, which was made in Harleston's name as Under-steward of the Duchy, saying that the beasts were taken upon the Duchy Fee, wherefore he desired me to make him livery of the said beasts so taken; and I said I would not deliver them unto the time that I had examined the Tenants of the truth, and so I sent thither Wykes with Pynchemore to understand what they would say; and the Tenants said that there was taken none upon the Duchy at their knowledge, save only Pyrse Waryn the younger, and Paynter said that their cattle were taken upon the Duchy, which they cannot prove by none record, save only by their own saying; and so we would not obey that Replevin, and so they departed; and at three at clock at afternoon Pynchemore came to Hellefdon again with two men, which brought with them a Replevin from the Sheriff, whose names be John Witherley and Robert Ranson, which required me by the same Replevin to make them delivery of the said beasts taken at Drayton; and so I, seeing the Sheriff's Replevin under his seal, bad my men deliver them, and so they were delivered.

And as for all other matters that ye have written to (*me*) of, I will speed me to send you an answer as hastily as I may, for I
may

wryte no more to you thys tyme the blyssyd Trynyte have you
in his kepyng Wryten at Haylesdon the xx day of May.

By yours

M. P.

Paper Mark.
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. viii. N^o 2.

LETTER LIII.

*To my ryght wyrshypfull
Husband Iohn Paston be
thys delyv'yd in haste.*

RYGH T Wyrshypfull Husbonde I recomaunde me to you
please it you to wyte that I have send to M John Smyth
and to M Stephyn to have A vyse for the Church of Drayton
and they send me word that ther moſte be had a Comyſſion from
the Byshop to calle in the perſon ¹ Flowredew and that moſt be
proclaymyd in the Church of Drayton iij tymes by a ² Deen and
after that yff he appyre not w^t ī vj monthys āfter the fyrſt p'cla-

The beginning of this Letter is curious, as it furniſhes us with an account of the pro-
ceſs to diſpoſſeſs a Parſon of his Church; what Flowerdew had done to incur deprivation
does not appear.

¹ John Flowerdew was inſtituted to the Rectory of Drayton on the 15th of March,
1461, on the preſentation of John Paſton, Eſq. and Thomas Howes, Clerk.

macion

may no leifure have to write no more to you at this time. The
bleffed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Hellefdon,
the 20th day of May.

By yours

MARGARET PASTON.

Hellefdon,

Monday, 20th of May,

1465. 5 E. IV.

L E T T E R LIV.

*To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this delivered
in hafte.*

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you;
please it you to weet that I have sent to Master John
Smyth and to Master Stephen to have advice for the Church of
Drayton; and they send me word that there must be had a
Commiffion from the Bishop to call in the Parson ¹ Flowerdew,
and that must be proclaimed in the Church of Drayton three
times by a ² Dean, and after that if he appear not within fix

At the time that this and the foregoing Letter was written, there was a dispute between
the Executors of Sir John Fastolf, and the Duke of Suffolk, concerning these Estates at
Drayton, Hellefdon, &c.

² This means the Rural Dean, who had a district of ten Churches, in the Country,
wherein he exercised a jurisdiction of great advantage to ecclesiastical discipline, and the
sentences of superior ecclesiastical Courts were to be executed by him.

months

macion that then he for to be depyryyd and the patron to p'sent whom he luste and ells your p'sentacyon ys not sufficyant and I have so p'veyd y^r a Comysfyon ys hadde and shal be frvyd as hastely as it may be As for Iohn Ryfying I have sent to hym to wyte the cause that he ys not broght up to london and he sayth that he Callyd uppon the Shyrff that he myght be had up for Com to hys awnswer and the Shyrff told hym that he wold not bryng hym up at hys owyn Coste and Iohn Andres seyde that he wold not have hym up and so he ys styll in p'son at Jpswych and so shall he be but yf ye canne fynde the beter mene for to have hym oute J have sent to hym xiiij^s iiij^d to help hym sylf ther w^t he payth for hys borde wykely xx^d and hopton and Smyth be ther styll allso and they have money ynogh wher som ev^r that they have it Ryfying dymeth that they have Confort of the other p'ty and I send you A Copy of the Warant that they wer A restyd by &c. I spake not w^t my moder syn Ryc' Calle broght me the lett^r from you tochyng her mater for I myght have no lefor when I speke w^t her at leyfure I wyll remember her in that mater acordyng to your wrytyng and as for your ten'nts of Drayton as I canne understond by hem they be ryght gode and trew hertyd to you to ther powers and full fayn wold that ye had it A yen in peasse for they had as leffe al most be ten'nts to the Devell as to the Duke except Wyll Herne Pers at Sloth and on Knott of the same Towe for they be not gode all your ten'nts at Haylesdon and Drayton except thes iij be ryght glad that

months after the first Proclamation, that then he to be deprived, and the Patron to present whom he lust (*lists*), and else your presentation is not sufficient. And I have so purveyed that a Commission is had, and shall be served as hastily as it may be.

As for John Ryfing I have sent to him to weet the cause that he is not brought up to London, and he saith that he called upon the Sheriff that he might be had up for (*to*) come to his answer, and the Sheriff told him, that he would not bring him up at his own cost; and John Andrews said that he would not have him up, and so he is still in prison at Ipswich; and so shall he be but if (*unless*) ye can find the better mean for to have him out; I have sent to him 13s. 4d. to keep himself therewith, he payeth for his board weekly twenty-pence; and Hopton and Smith be there still also, and they have money enough, that wheresoever they have it; Ryfing seemeth that they have comfort of the other party; and I send you the Copy of the Warrant that they were arrested by, &c.

I spake not with my Mother since Richard Calle brought me the Letter from you touching her matter, for I might have no leisure; when I speak with her at leisure I will remember her in that matter according to your writing; and as for your Tenants of Drayton, as I can understand by them, they be right good and true hearted to you to their powers, and full fain would that ye had it again in peace, for they had as leffe (*liefe*) almost be Tenants to the Devil as to the Duke, except Will. Herne, Perse at Sloth, and one Knott of the same Town, for they be not good.

All your Tenants at Hellefdon and Drayton, except these three,

that we err ther A monges hem and so be many other of our olde
nebers and Friends and but yf ye com hom by ³ Wensday or
Thursday in Wytson Wyke I p'pose me to flee you in secrete
wyse by ⁴ Trynyte Sondag but yf ye send to me contr'y co-
maundement er that tyme and I p'y you send me yeur Avyse how
ye wyll that We doo A yent the next Shyr whych shulbe the
Monday next after Trynyte Sondag as for Callyng uppon the
Replevyn that the bests of Drayton wer delyv'yd by. It' Ric'
Calle told me that ye desyryd to have M phylyp ys name and
hys name ys Phylyp lypzeate and I send you a letter by Henr
Wylton ys man wherin I wrote M' Phylyp ys name and in the
same lett' I wrote to you for Wyll Lumnor. I p'y you send me
word yf ye have it and the Blyfshyd Trynyte have you in hys
kypyng Wryten the Monday next after ⁵ Affencyon Day.

By yours

⁶ M. P.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

³ 5th or 6th of June.

⁴ 9th of June.

⁵ 23d of May.

LEC

be right glad that we are there amongst them, and so be many others of our old neighbours and Friends ; and but if (*unless*) ye come home by ³ Wednesday or Thursday in Whitfun week, I purpose me to see you in secret wise by ⁴ Trinity Sunday, but if (*unless*) ye send to me contrary commandment ere that time ; and I pray you send me your advice how ye will that we do against the next shire, which shall be the Monday next after Trinity Sunday, as for calling upon the Replevin that the beasts of Drayton were delivered by.

Item, Richard Calle told me that ye desired to have Master Philip's name, and his name is Philip Lypzate, and I sent you a Letter by Henry Wilton's man, wherein I wrote Master Philip's name ; and in the same Letter I wrote to you for Will. Lumnor ; I pray you send me word if ye have it, and the blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written the Monday next after ⁵ Assension Day.

By yours

⁶ MARGARET PASTON.

Monday, 27th of May,

1465. 5 E. IV.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. II. No 25.

E e 2

LET-

L E T T E R LII.

*To my mastre Iohn
Paston in hast.*

PLESITH it youre Maysterschip to witte of the rwle and disposicon of the ¹ M. Phīp and the balyf of Cossey w^t others of my lorde of Suff. men on Monday last past at aftre-noon were at Heylesdon w^t the nombre of CCC men for to haue entred notw^tstandyng they seyde they Come not for to entre but w^toute dought and they had been strong Jnough for vs they wolde haue entred and that we vndrestonde nough but we knowyng of ther Comyng and p^rveyd so for hem y^t we wer stronge Jnough we had lx men wⁱñe the place and gonnes and suche ordynauns so that if they had satte vppon vs they had be destroyed And ther my ² Mastres was wⁱñe and my Mastr Sr Iohn and hathe gate hym as grete worschip for that day as any gentelmā myght doo and so is it reported of the p^rtye and in all Norwiche And my lorde of ³ Norwiche sent theder M. John Salett and M John Bulleman for to trete and so they ded And the Duc men seide they had a warant for to Attache Ioh^r Dawbeney Wyks Calle Hunewrthe and bliclyng and other weche they

This and the following Letter, giving an account of the proceedings of the Duke of Suffolk's men at Helleston, of their attempts there, and of the steps taken by those in possession to oppose them, exhibit a true picture of the times, when the numerous fellowships of the great men, sometimes with, and sometimes without the knowledge of their Lords, attacked the smaller fellowships of their inferior neighbours, either on a pretence of having some title to their Estates, or under colour of having warrants to apprehend them on civil suits, or on prosecutions for felonies, &c.

wuld

LETTER LV.

To my Master John Paston, in haste.

PLEASETH it your mastership to weet of the rule and disposition of the ¹M Philip and the bailiff of Coffey, with others of my Lord of Suffolk's men, on Monday last past at afternoon (*who*) were at Hellefdon, with the number of three hundred men for to have entered, notwithstanding they said they came not for to enter, but without doubt and (*if*) they had been strong enough for us, they would have entered, and that we understand, now but we knowing of their coming and purveyed so for them, that we were strong enough; we had sixty men within the place, and guns, and such ordnance, so that, if they had set upon us, they had been destroyed; and there my ²Mistress was within and my Master Sir John, and (*he*) hath gotten him as great worship for that day as any gentleman might do, and so is it reported of the party and in all Norwich; and my Lord of ³Norwich sent thither Master John Salett, and Master John Bulleman for to treat, and so they did; and the Duke's men said they had a warrant for to attach John Daubeney, Wykes, Calle, Hunworth, and Blickling and other, which they would have, and my

¹ This does not clearly point out the person.

² We have often seen Margaret Paston in the character of Wife, Mother, and Friend, but this is the first time of her appearance as the Governess of a fortress, for such this may now be called.

Walter Lyhart, was Bishop of Norwich from 1446 to 1472.

Master

wuld haue and my M S^r Iohn Answerd them and seide y^t they were not w^tine and though we had ben they shuld not haue had hem And so they desired oon of our men and so Naunton stede by my mastres ad haxed hem whom they wold haue and seyde if they wold haue hem he wold go w^t hem And so he ded And on the next day they caryed hym forthe to my lord of Suff. to Claxton through Norwich And ther we had founde a remedy for hym for to haue lette hym and he wold not but nedys go forthe w^t hem but like a jentelman he was entreated amongs hem And Harleston desyred at Heylesdon to speke w^t my Mastre S^r John And so he ded And seyde to hym it were ryght weele don that he rode to my lord of Suff. and desired hym in any wice that he schulde do so And seyde that it was hes dwte so for to do in asmoche as my lorde was Come to Contre and that he wolde ryde w^t hym And brynge hym to my lorde And he Answerd and seide to hym whan that he vndrestode that my lord were hes fathers goode lord and hes y^t yanne he wolde fe hes lordship And ell he had non aronde to hym and so they dep^ted And thanne Appoyntement was taken that they shull fende home ther men and we schuld fend home oure And nough my lord of Suff. men come from Claxton to Norwich and face vs and fray vppon vs this dayly ther fylle vppon me befor sevayne dore xij of hes men viij of them in harneys and ther they wold haue myscheved me and the scheryf letted hem and other and they make ther Awaunte were y^t I may be goten J schul dye and so they lye in A wayte for to myscheve me Dawbeney and Wyks And so I dare not ryde out alone w^toute A man w^t me And I

Master Sir John answered them and said that they were not within, and though we had been, they should not have had them ; and so they desired one of our men, and so Naunton stood by my Mistress and asked them whom they would have, and said if they would have him, he would go with them, and so he did, and on the next day they carried him forth to my Lord of Suffolk to Claxton, through Norwich, and there we had found a remedy for him for to have let him, and he would not, but needs go forth with them ; but like a gentleman he was entreated amongst them. And Harleston desired at Helleston to speak with my Master Sir John, and so he did, and said to him it were right well done that he rode to my Lord of Suffolk, and desired him in any wise that he should do so, and said that it was his duty so for to do, in as much as my Lord was come (*in*) to (*the*) country, and that he would ride with him, and bring him to my Lord ; and he answered and said to him, when that he understood that my Lord were his Father's good Lord and his, that then he would see his Lordship, and else he had none errand to him ; and so they departed ; and then appointment was taken that they should send home their men, and we should send home ours ; and now my Lord of Suffolk's men come from Claxton to Norwich, and face us and fray upon us, this daily, there fell upon me before Swaine's door twelve of his men, eight of them in harness, and there they would have mischieved me, and the Sheriff letted (*hindered*) them and other, and they make their avaunt were that I may be gotten, I should die, and so they lie in await for to mischief me, Daubeney and Wykes ; and so I dare not ride out alone without a man with me, and I understand there

vndrestonde ther is Comyn an heyre determyner to enquer of all ryots And my lord of Suff and Yelurton be Comysconers And so they sey as money of vs as can be taken shal be endyted And hanged for^r w^t And so the people here are dysmayed w^t ther rwle wherfore that it like you to fende werd how my mastres schal do at Heylesdon and we in all other maters And wether ye wol that we feche A yene the flock of Heylesdon for they are nough dreven to Causton and there go they on the heythe and my lord of Suff. wolbe at Drayton on lames Daye and kepe the Coort ther Wherefor ye must seke An remedy for it or ell it wol not do weele if my lord of ⁴ Norff. wold come he schulde make all weele for they feere hym Above All thyngs for it is noyced here y^t my lord of Norff. hathe taken p^rtye in thes mater And all the Cuntre is cladde of it seyng y^t if he come they wooll hooly go w^t hym And me fenethe it were wele don to meve my lord in it though ye schuld geue hym the p^rfyghts of Heylesdon and Drayton for the kepyng and som money be fide for ye must seke som other remedy than ye do or ell in my Confeyte it schull go to the divell and be destroyed and that in ryght schorte tyme And therfore at the reu^rence of god take som Appoyntement w^t M Yelurton suche as ye thynke schuld most hurt I besече you to p^rdon me of my writyng for I haue pitte to se the trybulacon that my Mastres hathe here and all youre frends &c.

⁴ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, whose favour, it appears here, must have been purchased at a high price.

Almyghty

there is coming an Oyer (*and*) Determiner to enquire of all riots, and my Lord of Suffolk and Yelverton be Commissioners; and so they say as many of us as can be taken shall be endicted and hanged forthwith; and so the people here are dismayed with their rule, wherefore that it like you to send word how my Mistress shall do at Helleston, and we in all other matters; and whether ye will that we fetch again the flock of Helleston, for they are now driven to Causton, and there go they on the heath; and my Lord of Suffolk will be at Drayton on Lammas-day, and keep the Court there, wherefore ye must seek a remedy for it, or else it will not do well.

If my Lord of ⁴ Norfolk would come, he should make all well, for they fear him above all things, for it is noised here that my Lord of Norfolk hath taken party in this matter, and all the country is glad of it, saying, that if he come they will wholly go with him.

And me seemeth it were well done to move my Lord in it, though ye should give him the profits of Helleston and Drayton for the keeping, and some money beside; for ye must seek some other remedy than ye do, or else in my conceit it shall go to the Devil, and be destroyed, and that in right short time, and therefore at the reverence of God take some appointment with Master Yelverton, and such as ye think should most hurt.

I beseech you to pardon me of my writing, for I have pity to see the tribulation that my Mistress hath here, and all your Friends, &c.

Almyghty Jhu p'serue and kepe you wretē the Wednesday next
seint Thom's daye.

Yo^r pore f'rūit and bedman

^s Ric Calle.

^s Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 9.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11.

Seal, an Eagle's Head erased,
having an escroll issuing
from his mouth.

Pl. xxiii. N^o 8.

L E T T E R L I I I.

*To my ryght worschipfull
Husbond Iohn Paston in hast.*

RYGH T worshypful husbond I recomaund me to yow Prey-
eng you hertyly y^t ye wyl seke a meen y^t yowr f'rvauntys
may be in pees for they be dayly in fer of ther lyvys the Duke
Suff. men thretyn dayly Dawbeney Wykys and Ric Calle y^t
wher so euer they may gete them they schold dye And affrayes
have ben made on Rychard Calle this weke so y^t he was in gret
Jupperte at Norwych among them And gret Affrayes have ben
made uppon me and my Felashep her on Monday last passyd of
whych Rychard Calle tellyth me y^t he hath sent yow word of
in wryghtyng mor pley nly than I may doo at thys tyme but I
shal Informe yow mor pley nly herafter I suppose ther shal be

5

gret

Almighty Jesu preserve and keep you. Written the Wednesday next Saint Thomas's day (*7th of July*).

Your poor Servant and Beadsman

RICHARD CALLE.

Wednesday,

10th of July, 1465.

5 E. IV.

L E T T E R LVI.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, praying you heartily that ye will seek a mean that your servants may be in peace, for they be daily in fear of their lives; the Duke of Suffolk's men threaten daily Daubeney, Wykes, and Richard Calle, that wheresoever they may get them they shall die, and affrays have been made on Richard Calle this week, so that he was in great jeopardy at Norwich among them; and great affrays have been made upon me and my fellowship here on Monday last past, of which Richard Calle telleth me that he hath sent you word of in writing, more plainly than I may do at this time, but I shall inform you more plainly hereafter.

gret labor ageyn yow and yowr seruaunts at the assyfis and cessions her wherfor me semyth sauynge your bett^r advyce it werele do y^t ye shold speke w^t y^e Justicys or they com her And yf ye wol y^t I compleyn to them or to any other if good fortune me lyfe and helth I wol do as ye advyse me to do for in good feyth I haue ben symply intretid amonge them And what w^t fyknesse and troble y^t I haue had I am browte ryght lowe and weyke but to my power I wyl do as I can or may in your maters The Duk of ¹ Suff and bothe y^e Duchessys shal com to Claxton thys day as I am Informyd and thys next weke he shal be at Coffey whether he wol com ferther hyddyr ward or not I wot not yit It is seyde y^t he schold com hyddyr And yet hys men seyde her on Monday y^t he cleymyd no tytill to thys place they seyde ther Comynge was but to take out such ryotus peple as was her wⁱⁿ thys place And suche as were the kyngys felons and Indytyd and outlawyd men neu^rthe lesse they wold schew no warauntys wherby to take non such thow ther had suche her I suppose if they myght have com in pefably they wold have made an other cause of ther comynge whan alle was doo and they scholde dep^{te} Harlyston and other desyryd me y^t I schold com and se myn olde lady and sewe to my lorde and if any thyng were amysse it schold be amendyd I seyde if I scholde sewe for any remedye y^t I scholde sewe ferther and lete the kyng and alle the

Margaret Paston in this Letter in some measure continues the narrative of the riotous proceedings at Helleston and Norwich against her Husband's Servants and Tenants by the Retainers of the Duke of Suffolk; she pathetically complains of her troubles both of body and mind, and gives an alarming account of her bad state of health, appearing however, under all her misfortunes, the careful, tender, and amiable Wife.

lordys

I suppose there shall be great labour against you and your servants at the Assizes and Sessions here, wherefore me seemeth, saving your better advice, it were well done that ye should speak with the Justices ere they come here; and if ye will that I complain to them or to any other, if Good (*God*) fortune me life and health, I will do as ye advise me to do, for in good faith, I have been simply entreated among them; and what with sickness, and trouble that I have had, I am brought right low and weak, but to my power I will do as I can or may in your matters.

The Duke of ¹ Suffolk and both the Duchesses shall come to Claxton this day, as I am informed, and this next week he shall be at Coffey, whether he will come further hitherward or not, I wot not yet; it is said that he should come hither, and yet his men said here on Monday that he claimed no title to this place; they said their coming was but to take out such riotous people as was here within this place, and such as were the King's felons, and indicted and outlawed men, nevertheless they would shew no warrants whereby to take none such, though there had been such here; I suppose, if they might have come in peaceably, they would have made another cause of their coming.

When all was done and they should depart, Harleston and other desired me that I should come and see mine old Lady, and sue to my Lord, and if any thing were amiss it should be amended.

I said if I should sue for any remedy, that I should sue further, and let the King and all the Lords of this land to have

¹ John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, married Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Sister of King Edward IV. The Duchess his Mother, the relict of the late Duke of Suffolk, was widow of Thomas de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and Daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, Esq. She was grand-daughter to that famous Poet, Geoffry Chaucer, and died in 1475.

lordys of thys londe to haue knowlech what hathe be don to vs if so wer that the Deuk wolde meynnten y^t hathe be don to vs by hys f^ruauntys if ye wolde geue me leve I pray yow sende me worde if ye wyl y^t I make any compleynt to the Duke or the Duchesse For as it is ² tolde me they know not the pleyneffe that hathe ben don in such thyngys as hathe ben don in her namys I schold wryght muche mor to yow but for lak of leyfer I comaundyd my mayst^r Tom thys Day to have com ageyn by me from Norwych when he had spokyn w^t rycharde Calle but he cam not I wolde he wer qwyte of hys Jndytments so y^t he wer qwyte of yowr servyc for by my trowthe I holde the place y^e mor ongracyous y^t he is in for hys dysposycion in dyverce thyngys y^e whych y^e schal be inform^d of her aft^r The Trynyte haue yow in kepyng Wretyn the Fryday next aft^r seynt Thom's.

By yowr

³ M. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 12.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

Seal, a Fleur de Lys.
Pl. xxiii. N^o 7.

² It seems from her expressions here, that this riotous fellowship had proceeded to these outrageous lengths without the Duke's knowledge, and that she appears to believe the report to be true.

ACE

knowledge what hath been done to us, if so were that the Duke would maintain that hath been done to us by his Servants, if ye would give me leave.

I pray you send me word, if ye will that I make any complaint to the Duke or the Duchefs, for as it is ² told me, they know not the plainness that hath been done in such things as hath been done in their names.

I should write much more to you but for lack of leifure.

I commanded my Master Tom this day to have come again by me from Norwich, when he had spoken with Richard Calle, but he came not; I would he were quit of his indictment, so that he were quit of your service, for by my truth, I hold the place the more ungracious that he is in, for his disposition in divers things, the which ye shall be informed of hereafter.

The Trinity have you in keeping. Written the Friday next after Saint Thomas,

By your

³ MARGARET PASTON.

Friday, 12th of July,
1465. 5 E. IV.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LE T-

LETTER LXXV.

To my mastras Margaret Paston

be this deliu'yd in hast at london.

AFTYR all humbyll and most dwe recomendacion as lowly as I can I beseche yow of yo^r blyssyng Plesyt yow to wet y^t I haue sent to my fadyr to haue an answer of syche mat's as I haue sent to hym for in hast of whyche maty's the grettest of substans is for the man^r of Cotton besechyng yow to remēbyr hym of the same mat^r y^t I may haue an answer in y^e most hafty wyse Also I pray yow that myn Ante ^r Poonyngys may be desyryd to send me an answer of syche mat'ys as sche wotyth of by hym y^t schall brynge me an answer of y^e mat^r of Cotton Also modyr I beseche yow y^t ther may be p'ueyd some meane y^t I myth haue sent me home by y^e same mesenger ij peyir hofe j payir blak and an othyr payir of Roset whyche be redy made for me at the hofers w^t y^e crokyd bak next to y^e blak freyrs gate w^tin ludgate Iohn Pampyng knowyth hym well Jnow I suppose and y^e blak hofe be payid for he wyll send me y^e Roset un payd for I beseche yow y^t y^{is} ger be not forget for I haue not an hole hofe for to doon I trowe they schall cost bothe payr viij^s my brodyr

The easy and familiar style of this Letter will not be displeasing to the Reader, perhaps he will smile at the particular directions concerning J. Paston's hofe, and his minute description of the Hofier.

I should have been fearful that the jesting way in which he advises his sister Margery to apply for a good Husband might have displeased the Saint, and made him turn a deaf ear

L E T T E R LVII.

*To my Mistres Margaret Paston, be this delivered in haste,
at London.*

AFTER all humble and most due recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beseech you of your blessing, please it you to weet that I have sent to my Father to have an answer of such matters as I have sent to him for in haste, of which matters the greatest of substance is for the Manor of Cotton, beseeching you to remember him of the same matter, that I may have an answer in the most hasty wise.

Also I pray you that mine Aunt ¹ Poynings may be desired to send me an answer of such matters as she woteth of, by him that shall bring me an answer of the matter of Cotton.

Also Mother, I beseech you that there may be purveyed some mean that I might have sent me home by the same messenger two pair of Hose, one pair black, and another pair of russet, which be ready made for me at the Hosier's with the crooked back, next to the Black Friar's-Gate, within Ludgate; John Pamping knoweth him well enough I suppose, and (*if*) the black hose be paid for he will send me the russet unpaid for; I beseech you that this geer be not forgotten, for I have not an whole hose for to do on; I trow they shall cost both pair 8s.

ear to her petition; it appears however rather remarkable that, as a papist, he should make so free with the Holy Roods at Bermondsey.

¹ Elizabeth Paston, she first married Robert Poynings, Esq. and afterward Sir George Browne, Knight, of Beechworth Castle, in Surrey.

² brodyr and my Sufty ³ Anne and all y^e garyson of Heylyfdon
fare well blyffyd be god and recomand hem to yow eu'ychon I
pray yow voyfyt y^e Rood of Northedor and feynt Sauyour at
⁴ barmonfey amonge whyll ye Abyd in london and lat my Sufty
⁵ Margery goo w^t yow to prey to them y^t fche may haue a good
hofbond or fche Com hom ayen and now I pray yow fend vs some
tydyngys as ye wer wonte to Comand me And the holy t'nyte
haue yow in kepyng and my fayir Mastras of y^e fleet Wretyn at
Norwyche on holy Rood Daye.

Yo^r fone and lowly fervūt

⁶ J. Paston, y^e youngeſt.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

² Sir John Paston.

³ Anne Paston, afterwards the Wife of William Yelverton.

⁴ The Abbey of Saint Saviour at Bermondsey, in Surrey, was founded in 1081,
15th William the Conqueror, by Alwin Child of London; it was surrendered in 1539,
31 H.

LETTER LIII.

*To my ryght wyrshypfull
hofbond Iohn Paston be thys
delyuryd in hast.*

RYGH T wyrshypfull hofbond I recomand me to you please
it you to wyte that J was at Haylesden uppon therſday
laſte paſſyd and ſey the place ther and in gode feyth ther wyll

no

My ² Brother, and my Sister ³ Anne, and all the garrison of Hellefdon fare well, blessed be God, and recommend them to you everyth (*every*) one.

I pray you visit the Rood of Northdoor and St. Saviour, at ⁴ Bermondsey, among while ye abide (*during your abode*) in London, and let my Sister ⁵ Margery go with you to pray to them that she may have a good Husband ere she come home again; and now I pray you send us some tidings as ye were wont to command me; and the Holy Trinity have you in keeping; and my fair Mistres of the Fleet. Written at Norwich, on Holy Rood Day.

Your Son and lowly Servant

⁶ JOHN PASTON, the youngest.

Norwich, Saturday,
14th of September, 1465.
⁵ E. IV.

³¹ H. VIII. when it was pulled down, and a Fair House built on the site by Sir Thomas Pope, Knight.

⁵ Margery Paston, she afterwards married Richard Calle.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o II.

L E T T E R LVIII.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that I was at Hellefdon upon Thursday last past, and saw the place there, and in good faith there

G g 2

will

no cryatur thynke how fowle and orubelly it ys arayed but yf they fey it ther Comyth moch pepyll dayly to wonder ther uppon both of Norwych and of other placys and they speke shamfully therof the Duck had be beter then a m^l li. that it had neu^r be don and ye haue the more gode wyll of the pepyll that it ys so foyll don and they made youre ten'ntys of Haylesdon and Drayton w^t other to help to breke down the wallys of the place and the logge both god knowyth full evyll ayenst ther wyllys but that thay derst no notherwyffe don for ferre J haue spoken w^t your ten'ntys of Haylesdon and Drayton both and putte hem in Comfort as well as J canne. the Duck ys men renfackyd the Church and bare a way all the gode that was lefte ther both of ours and of the ten'nts and lefte not So moch but that they stode uppon the hey awter and ranfackyd the Jmages and toke a way such as they myght fynd and put a way the p^rson owte of the Church tyll they had don and ranfackyd eu^ry mans hous in the Towe v or vj tymys and the Chyff maysters of robberyng was the Baylly of Ey the Baylly of Stradbroke Thom's Slyford and Porter and Slyford was the Chyff robber of the Cherch and he hath most of the robbery next the Baylly of Ey and as for Lede Bras pewter yren Dorys Gatys and other stufte of the hous men of Coshay and Causton haue it. and that thay myght not cary thay have hewen it a sonder in the most dysspytuose wyse yf it myght be J wold som men of wyrshop myght be fend from the Kyng to see how it ys both ther and at the

will no creature think how foully and horribly it is arrayed but if (*unless*) they saw it; there cometh much people daily to wonder thereupon, both of Norwich and of other places, and they speak shamefully thereof; the Duke had by better than a thousand pound that it had never been done, and ye have the more good will of the people, that it is so foully done; and they made your Tenants of Helleston and Drayton with other to help to break down the walls of the place and the Lodge both, God knoweth full evil against their wills, but that they durst none other wise do for fear; I have spoken with your Tenants of Helleston and Drayton both, and put them in comfort as well as I can; the Duke's men ransacked the Church, and bare away all the good that was left there, both of ours and of the Tenants, and left not so much but that they stood upon the high Altar and ransacked the Images, and took away such as they might find, and put away the Parson out of the Church till they had done; and ransacked every man's house in the town five or six times, and the chief masters of robbing was the Bailiff of Eye, the Bailiff of Stradbroke, Thomas Slyford, and Porter; and Slyford was the chief robber of the Church, and he hath most of the robbery next the Bailiff of Eye; and as for lead, brass, pewter, iron, doors, gates, and other stuff of the house, men of Coffey and Causton have it, and that they might not carry they have hewn it asunder in the most despiteous wise; if it might be, I would some men of worship might be sent from the King to see
how

the logge or than any ¹ snowys com that they may make report of the troth ellys it shall not mo be feyn so playnly as it may now and at the reverens of God spyde your maters nowe for it ys to orybell a cost and trobell that we haue now dayly and most haue tyll it be other wyse and your men dar not goo abowte to geder uppe your lyfflode and we kype her dayly more than xxx p^rsons for sauacyon of us and the place for in very trowght and the place had not be kypyd strong the Duck had Com hether.

Arblaſter thynketh verely that Hugh a Fen may do moch in your maters and he thynkyth that he wole do for you faythfully yf ye wyll &c. at the reverens of god yf any wyrshypfull and p^rfetabile mene may be take yn your maters for sake it not in eſchuyng of our trobell and gret costs and chargs that we haue and may growe here after it ys thoght here that yf my lord of Norff. wolld take uppon hym for you and that he may haue a Comyſſyon for to enquer of ſuch ryotts and robberyes as hath be don to you and other in thys Contray that then all the Contray wyll a wayte uppon hym and f^rve your entent for the pepyll lovyth and dredyth hym more then any other lord except the kyng and my lord of Warwyk &c.

We who fortunately live at a time of peace and domestic tranquillity, can scarcely believe the picture of savage manners here represented; if the Duke of Suffolk were ignorant of, or did not even encourage such proceedings, it can hardly be supposed that his Retainers dared to have done such mischief; they certainly must know that what they did would not meet with their Lord's displeasure.

Their behaviour in the Church is very extraordinary, as Papists almost universally pay great respect not only to their Priests, but to their places of public worship, esteeming them as sacred, and on no pretence to be violated or profaned.

how it is both there and at the Lodge, ere than any ¹ Snows come, that they may make report of the truth, else it shall not more be seen so plainly as it may now ; and at the reverence of God speed your matters now, for it is too horrible a cost and trouble that we have now daily, and must have till it be otherwise ; and your men dare not go about to gather up your livelihood, and we keep here daily more than thirty persons for savation of us and the place, for in very truth, and (*if*) the place had not been kept strong, the Duke had come hither.

Arblaster thinketh verily that Hugh a Fenn may do much in your matters, and he thinketh he will do for you faithfully if ye will, &c.

At the reverence of God, if any worshipful and profitable mean may be taken in your matters, forsake it not in eschewing of our trouble and great costs and charges that we have, and may grow hereafter ; it is thought here that if my Lord of Norfolk would take upon him for you, and that he may have a Commission for to enquire of such riots and robberies as hath been done to you and other in this country, that then all the country will await upon him, and serve your intent, for the people loveth and dreadeth him more than any other Lord, except the King and my Lord of Warwick, &c.

¹ If we may judge from the mention of Snow here, the Winters began earlier at this period than at the present seasons, we having very rarely now any considerable fall of Snow before Christmas.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

On the back of the Original Letter is written in an ancient hand, " A Lrē concerning the extreme dealing of the Duke of Suff. at Haylesdon."

God haue you in hys kypyng and send ous gode tydyngs
from you Wryten in haste uppon the sonday Seynt Symon and
Jude ys Evyn.

By yours

M. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17.

Paper Mark,

A Crozier.

Pl. xxvi. N^o 6.

LETTER LX.

* *A Lrē to I Paston arm. from
his wife shewing his imp^rsoment
in the ffleete.*

RYTH Worchepfull husbond I recomand me to yow plesyt
yow to wet that I receyvyd yowyr lettyr y^t ye sent me by
Iohn Holme on Wednysday last past And also I receyvyd a
nothyr lettyr on fryday at nyt y^t ye sent me by Nycolas New-
manys man of the whyche lettyrs I thanc yow for I schold ellys
a thowt y^t it had be wers w^t yow than it hathe be or schall be
by

* There is no direction to this Letter, but the words above inserted are written in an ancient hand upon the back of it.

The first imprisonment of John Paston was in consequence of a Writ of Trespass brought against him by William Jenney, Esq. Serjeant at Law, in Easter Term, 4 E. IV. 1464, when the issue being found for the Plaintiff, a *capias pro fine* was awarded for the King;

God have you in his blessed keeping, and send us good tidings from you. Written in haste, upon the Sunday Saint Simon and Jude's Even.

By yours

MARGARET PASTON.

Sunday,

27th of October, 1465.

5 E. IV.

L E T T E R LIX.

* *A Letter to John Paston, Esq. from his Wife, shewing his Imprisonment in the Fleet.*

RIGHT worshipful Husband I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that I received your Letter that ye sent me by John Holme on Wednesday last past, and also I received another Letter on Friday at night, that ye sent me by Nicholas Newman's man, of the which Letters I thank you, for I should else have thought that it had been worse with you than it hath

King; Paston absconded, and the Exigent was awarded and directed to the Sheriff of Suffolk, and he was called at four County Courts; but before the fifth he surrendered himself, and was committed to the Fleet. The second in 1465, upon a vile suggestion that he was a Bondsman of the King. He died in London the 26th of May 1466, and was buried in the Priory of Bromholm, in Norfolk.

by the g'ce of Almyty God and yet I kowd not be mery fethyn. I had the last lettyr tyll thys day y^t the meyir sent to me and sent me werd y^t he had knowlege for very trowthe y^t ye wer deliv'yd owt of the Flet and y^t Howard was comytyd to ward for dyv's gret compleyntys y^t wer mad to the kyng of hym it was talkyd in Norwyche and in dyv's othyr plasys in y^e Contre on Sat'day last past y^t ye wer comytyd to Flet and in good feyth As I herd sey the pepyle was ryth fory ther of bothe of Norwyche and in the Cōtre ye ar ryth myche bownde to thank God and all tho y^t love yow y^t ye have so gret love of the pepyll as ye have ye ar myche behold to the ¹ Meyir and to ² Gylberd and to dyv's othyr of y^e aldyrmen for feythfully the' owe yow good wyll to ther porys I have spoke w^t Syr Thom's Howys for fwyche thyngys as ye wrot to me for and he promysyd me y^t he schold labo^r it aftyr yowyr intent as fast as he kowd and in good feyth as my brodyr and Playt^r kan tell yow as be hys seyig to us he is and wole be feythfull to yow and as for Wyll'm Wyrcestyr he hathe be set so up on the ³ hone what by the p^rson and by othyr as my brodyr and Playt^r schall telle yow y^t they hope he wole do well i now the p^rson seyde Ryth well and pleynty to hym the p^rson tolde me y^t he had spokk w^t Syr Wyll'm ⁴ Chambyrleyn and w^t hys wyfe and he thynkyth y^t they wole do well j
now.

¹ Thomas Ellis was Mayor of Norwich in 1460, and again in 1465.

² John Gilbert had been Mayor in 1459, and in 1464. He died in 1472.

³ This expression is taken from setting a razor, and means that he had been talked to not only in a smooth, but likewise in a sharp and severe manner.

⁴ I should have concluded this to have been Sir William Chamberlain, of Gedding, in Suffolk, a Knight of the Garter, who bravely fought under the Duke of Bedford, in the Wars in France, and who it is here said "coud do more ese in fwyche matyrs as ye wrot

been, or shall be, by the grace of Almighty God, and yet I could not be merry, since I had the last Letter till this day that the Mayor sent to me, and sent me word that he had knowledge for very truth that ye were delivered out of the Fleet; and that Howard was committed to ward for divers great complaints that were made to the King of him; it was talked in Norwich, and in divers other places in the country on Saturday last past, that ye were committed to the Fleet, and in good faith, as I heard say, the people was right sorry thereof, both of Norwich and in the country, ye are right much bound to thank God, and all those that love you, that ye have so great love of the people as ye have; ye are much beholden to the ¹ Mayor, and to ² Gilbert, and to divers others of the Aldermen, for faithfully they owe you good will to their powers.

I have spoken with Sir Thomas Howes for such things as ye wrote to me for, and he promised me that he should labour it after your intent as fast as he could, and in good faith, as my brother and Playters can tell you, as by his saying to us, he is and will be faithful to you; and as for William Worcester he hath been set so upon the ³ hone what by the parson and by others, as my brother and Playters shall tell you, that they hope he will do well enough; the Parson said right well and plainly to him.—The Parson told me that he had spoken with Sir William ⁴ Chamberlayn, and with his wife, and he thinketh

of towchyng my Lord of Bedford than ony man kowd do y^t leveyth at thys day," if the account given of him in Blomfield's History of Norfolk, did not say that his Will was proved in 1462.—The date however may possibly be there mistaken. He married Anne, the Daughter and Heir of Sir Robert de Herling, Knight, and lies buried with her, under an arched Monument, in the Chancel of Herling Church.—I do not find that he left any Children.

now aftyr yowyr intent fo y^t they be plesantly intretyd the p^rfon told me y^t he wyft well y^t Syr Wyll'm Chambyrleyn cowd do more efe in fwyche maty's as ye wrot of towchȳg my lord of⁵ Bedford than ony man kowd do y^t leveyth at thys day Also he told me y^t he felt by hem y^t they wold owe yow ryth good wyll fo y^t ye wold owe hem good wyll the p^rfon hopyth v^rily to make yow Acordyd when he Comyth to london It' my brodyr and Playt^r wer w^t ⁶ Calthorp to inquer of the mat^r y^t ye wrot to me of What Answer he gave hem they fchall tell yow I fent the ⁷ p^rfon of Heylyfdon to ⁸ Gurnay to fpek to hym of the fame mat^r and he feyth feythefully ther was no fwyche thyng defyryd of hym and thow it had be defyryd he wold nowthyr a feyd nor done a yens yow he feyd he had ev^r fownde you lovyng and feythfull to hym and fo he feyd he wold be to yow to hys power and defyirȳg me y^t I wold not thynk hym the Contrary as for Iohn Gros he is at Slole ther for he myth not be spok w^t I p'y yow y^t ye wole fend me word whedyr ye wole y^t I fchall remeve frome hens for it begynyth to wax a cold abydyng her Syr Thom's Howys and Iohn Rus fchall make an end of All thyngys aftyr yowyr intent as myche as they Can do ther in y^{is} wek and he p^rposyth to come forward to yow on y^e monday next aftyr feynt leonardys day my brodyr and Playt^r fchold a be w^t yow er thys tym but y^t they wold a byd tyl thys day wer past be

⁵ John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, died at Paris in 1435.

⁶ Q? If Sir William Calthorpe, Knight, High Sheriff of Norfolk, &c. in 1464, and who died very old, in 1494.

that they will do well enough after your intent, so that they be pleasantly intreated; and the Parson told me that he wist well, that Sir William Chamberlayn could do more ease in such matters as ye wrote of touching my Lord of ⁵ Bedford, than any man could do that liveth at this day; also he told me that he felt by them that they would owe you right good will, so that ye would owe them good will; the Parson hopeth verily to make you accorded when he cometh to London.

Item, my brother and Playters were with ⁶ Calthorpe to enquire of the matter that ye wrote to me of, what answer he gave them, they shall tell you; I sent the ⁷ Parson of Hellefdon to ⁸ Gurney to speak to him of the same matter, and he saith faithfully there was no such thing desired of him, and though he had been desired, he would neither have said nor done against you; he said he had ever found you loving and faithful to him, and so he said he would be to you to his power, and desiring me that I would not think him the contrary.

As for John Gros he is at Sloley, therefore he might not be spoken with.

I pray you that ye will send me word whether ye will that I shall remove from hence, for it beginneth to wax a cold abiding here. Sir Thomas Howes and John Rufs shall make an end of all things after your intent, as much as they can do therein this week, and he proposeth to come forwards to you on the Monday next after St. Leonard's day.

My Brother and Playters should have been with you ere this time, but that they would abide till this day were past, because

⁷ Thomas Hert, was instituted to the Rectory of Hellefdon in 1448.

⁸ Thomas Gurney, of Norwich, Esq. died in 1471.

cause of the schyer I spok to my brodyr Wyll'm as ye bad me and he told me so god hym help y^t he hyryd ij horse ij dayis be for y^t ye redyn y^t he myth a ryde forthe w^t yow and be cause y^t ye spak not to hym to ryde w^t yow he seyde y^t he woud ye wold ⁹ have had hym w^t yow. ¹⁰ Thom's Fastolfys modyr was her on y^e next day aftyr ye wer redyn to have spoke w^t yow for hyr sone He s^che p'yith yow at the rev^ens of God y^t ye wole be hys good mastyr and to help hym in hys ryth y^t he may have hom hys lyvelod owt of ther handys y^t have had it in hys nownage s^che seyth y^t they wold mak hym a yer yonger than he is but s^che seyth y^t he is more thane xxj and upon y^t s^che dare take ano the and the blyffyd trynyte have yow in hys kep^yg and fend yow good Sped in all yowyr maty's and fend y^e vyctary of All yowyr Enmyis Wretyn in hast on ¹¹ Sowlemas daye.

By yowyr

¹² M. P.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 12 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
A Flower.

Pl. XXI. N^o 3.

⁹ The word *not* seems here to have been omitted in the Original Letter.

¹⁰ I am not certain in what degree of relationship this Thomas Fastolf stood to Sir John Fastolf; he was I believe a Cousin, and a Suffolk branch of the Fastolf Family, as a Thomas Fastolf resided near Ipswich, in 1474. See Letter LV. Vol. III. p. 225.

EE E-

of the Shire: I spoke to my Brother William as ye bad me, and he told me, so God him help, that he hired two horses two days before that ye rode, that he might have ridden forth with you; and because that ye spoke not to him to ride with you, he said that he wend ye would ⁹ have had him with you.

¹⁰ Thomas Fastolf's Mother was here on the next day after ye were ridden, to have spoken with you for her Son, he (*and*) she prayeth you at the reverence of God, that ye will be his good Master, and to help him in his right, that he may have home his livelihood out of their hands that have had it in his nonage; she faith that they would make him a year younger than he is, but she faith that he is more than twenty-one, and upon that she dare take an oath.

And the blessed Trinity have you in his keeping, and send you good speed in all your matters, and send ye victory of all your Enemies. Written in haste, on ¹¹ Soulmas-day.

By yours

¹² MARGARET PASTON.

Soulmas-day,

2d of November, 1465.

5 E. IV.

We see here the iniquitous proceedings of those who got the Wardship of Minors into their hands, by endeavouring to make their Wards younger, that they might keep longer possession of their property.

¹¹ All-Souls, otherwise Soulmas-day, 2d of November.

¹² Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal. Pl. XIV. N° 4.

LET-

L E T T E R L X.

*To my Worchipful
Cofyn Iohn Paston.*

RYGTH Worchipful Cofyn I comaunde me to yow And forasmoch as y' was a child ded at Asteles and on other lik to be ded in the same place What tyme y^t I rode oute aboute my litil livedod my lady and I bothe thoughte pite on my mastres yo^r wif to se her abide y' and desirid here to com to my pore hous on to soch tyme as ye shuld a be othirwise avised wyche if it plese yow I am right Wel apaied Sythen I undirstande be my lady y^t ye desire to knowe whedyr y^t I shulde abide her stille or nowe as to y^t I have non other place y^t I wold abide at and my lady seith how she is avised to ende hir lif here Also she seith how ye desire to have a stabill w^t inne my plas and as to y^t afeith S^r I have none but y^t must nedis f^rve for my wode as for a chambre ye shal have on for yo^r men al redy and as touching a stabill S^r Iohn Sp'ham and I have gote yow on y' yo^r hors stode the last tyme ye were in this town and an hows to ley Jnne hey

John Wymondham, Esq. the writer of this Letter, married Margery, the Daughter of Sir Robert Clifton, Knight, of Denver, in Norfolk, and Widow of Sir Edward Hastings, of Elsing, Knight; he therefore calls her "My Lady." He died in 1475.

He purchased the Manor and Estate at Felbrigg, of the Trustees of Sir Simon Felbrigg, where he had resided; but once in his absence Sir John Felbrigg made a forceable entry, and dragging out his Lady by the hair of her head, (who had locked herself up in a Chamber to keep possession), got into possession, and retained it till Wymondham obtained the King's order to Thomas Montgomery, Esq. High Sheriff of the County, to put him again into possession. The dispute was then settled with Sir John Felbrigg, and upon Wymondham's paying to him 200 Marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) he released all claims, &c.

and

L E T T E R LX.

To my worshipful Cousin, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Cousin, I commend me to you, and for as much as there was a child dead at Aftley's, and another like to be dead in the same place, what time that I rode out about my little livelihood, my Lady and I both thought pity on my mistress your wife to see her abide there, and desired her to come to my poor house unto such time as ye should a be (*have been*) otherwise avised (*provided*) *with* which if it please you I am right well apayed (*contented*).

Sythen (*since*) I understand by my Lady that ye desire to know whether that I should abide here still or not; as to that, I have none other place that I would abide at; and my Lady saith how she is advised to end her life here; also she saith how ye desire to have a Stable within my place; and as to that, a faith Sir, I have none, but that must needs serve for my wood; as for a Chamber ye shall have one for your men all ready; and as touching a stable Sir John Sparham and I have gotten you one there, (*where*) your horse stood the last time ye were in this town,

This Letter seems to have been written during the time that he was dispossessed of Felbrigg, and which must have been either before the year 1461 or 1466, those being the years in which Sir Thomas Montgomery was Sheriff of Norfolk, and as J. Paston at this time seems to have been under misfortunes, it was probably near the latter year. I have therefore ventured, though doubtfully, to date the Letter in 1465.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N^o 7.

This Letter is curious, as it acquaints us with the ordinary and plain manners of the time.

and straw and cost yow not but making of a rak and a mageo^r and more to yo^r ease y' than here And yf ye wyl y^t it be made redy for yow fend werd be the bring^r of this lett^r And Cosyn as towching to paiment I can not sey how ye shal be pleasid w^t my pore fare but aftir y^t ye arn com home and arn aqweintid y' wyth we shal so acorde as shal be plesir to us bothe W^t the g[']ce of god Which have in his blissid gov^runce, and fend yow yo^r mod[']is blissing Wreten at Norwich on Seint Martyn is even.

Yo^r poer Cosyn and ffrend

J. Wymondham.

And how y^t ev^r ye do hold up yo^r manship.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Part of a Bull.

Pl. xxvii. N^o 14.

LETTER LXI.

*To my Cosyn Paston be
thys lett^r delyv'd yn haste.*

RYGH T reverent And Worshyppeful Cosyn y Comawnd me on to you desyryng to her off yo^r welfare the whyche Almyghty Ihu p[']serve to hys plesawns And to yo^r own herts desyres

and an house to lay in hay and straw, and cost you not (*nothing*) but making of a rack and a manger, and more to your ease there than here; and if ye will that it be made ready for you, send word by the bringer of this Letter. And, Cousin, as touching to payment, I cannot say how ye shall be pleased with my poor fare, but after that ye are come home and are acquainted therewith, we shall so accord as shall be pleasure to us both, with the grace of God, which have (*you*) in his blessed governance, and send you your Mother's blessing.

Written at Norwich, on Saint Martin's Even.

Your poor Cousin and Friend

JOHN WYMONDHAM.

And how that ever ye do,
hold up your manship.

Norwich,
10th of November, 1465.
5 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXI.

To my Cousin Paston, be this delivered in haste.

R I G H T reverend and worshipful Cousin, I commend me unto you, desiring to hear of your welfare, the which the Almighty Jesu preserve to his pleasure (*pleasure*) and to your

desyres forthermore and yff y^t please yo^r gentylness to be my trusty frend as my Ful truste ys yn you as for swyche materys as y^e bryng^r off y^{is} l^re shall enforme you And bethe ffectuall my Frend And br̄ge y^t Abowte And by my trowy^e y shall geve you An C marke for yo^r labowr ffor yn trowthe y am aferde y^t Roberd Radclyff hathe deseyvyd me for he laboryd to me dayly by my lords Comawndemēt off Warwyk And bro'ght w^t hym yllingworthe And od^r off my lords Cownsel And seen my evydens And so we stoden uppon Apoyntemēt and y for to have had An unswere sent to Felbrygge Halle and yff ne had be for ffendyng off my lords lordschyppe y myght have had my money for my Ryght or y cam owt off london as my man schall enforme you ffor yn trowy^e y muste now make An schiffte for Wyndham hay^e sold hys Ryght and rathere yan yt schuld go y^t way to y had lev^r my lord had yt ij. C marke w^t yn y^e pryse y^t y graw't yt laste and y'for y be scheche you to labowr to my lord y^t y may have An unswer And y^{ies} many ' Townes longry^e y'to Felbrygge Aylinton Ronton Colby Bannyngham Ingworthe Styrston besyde hamelets no mor to you at y^{is} tyme but y^e holy t'nyte have you yn his kepyng Wryten at Felbrygg y^e monday affor Seynt Augnet's day.

By yo^r Cosyn

John Felbrygge.

Paper Mark,
The Letter C.
Pl. xxvii. N^o 8.

I have given this Letter to shew the estimation that John Paston's assistance was held in; for the present of an hundred Marks to secure his friendship, was a very large sum in these days.

From this Letter we are likewise acquainted with the disputes subsisting between Felbrigg and Wymondham.

LEU

own heart's desires ; furthermore, and if it please your gentleness to be my trusty Friend, as my full trust is in you, as for such matters as the bringer of this Letter shall inform you, and be effectually my Friend, and bring it about, and by my truth I shall give you an hundred Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) for your labour ; for in truth I am afraid that Robert Radcliff hath deceived me, for he laboured to me daily by my Lord's commandment of Warwick, and brought with him Illingworth, and other of my Lord's Counsel, and saw my Evidences ; and so we stood upon appointment, and I for to have had an answer sent to Felbrigg Hall, and if ne had been (*if it had not been*) for defending of my Lord's Lordship, I might have had my money for my right, ere I came out of London, as my man shall inform you ; for in truth I must now make a shift, for Wymondham hath sold his right, and rather than it should go that way too, I had lever (*rather*) my lord had it two hundred Marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) within the price that I granted it last, and therefore I beseech you to labour to my Lord that I may have an answer. And these many ¹ Towns belongeth thereto, (*namely*) Felbrigg, Aylmerton, Runton, Colby, Banningham, Ingworth, Sturston, besides Hamlets. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Felbrigg, the Monday after Saint Agnes's day.

By your Cousin

JOHN FELBRIGGE.

Felbrigg, Monday, 27th of Januar^y,

1465. 5 E. IV.

¹ The date cannot be clearly ascertained, but I have placed it in the January after J. Wymondham's Letter, but whether rightly or not I cannot say.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N^o 8.

¹ I suppose this refers to manerial rights extending into these Towns, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXII.

*Un to the ryght Wyrshypfull
Mayster S' Iohn Paston Knygt
be thys lett' delyu'yd.*

RYGH T wyrshypfull and my especyall gode Mayster I recomaund me unto your gode maystershype letyng you wyte that the bero^r herof told me that ye had grete mervyll that J send to you no word ne lett^r of awnswer of the letters that ye had send to me to london, as for on letter ye send to me by Rychard Playtours man and therof J send you an awnswer in a letter by a man of the P^{or} of Bromholm and as for other letters ther com no more to me but that on. Jt'm Mayster Flemmyng lokyth dayly for hys hors and at eu^y tyme that J mete w^t hym he askyth of me when hys hors shuld Com and when I here any word from you wherfore J p^y you send me word in a letter how he shall be awnswerd and yf the hors shall Com lette me knowe when for and he had not trustyd theruppon he wold haue p^{veyd} hym in a nother place &c. Jt'm Iohn Oter ys not yet payd but as I suppose it shall not be long to tyll he haue it for he hath spoken to my mayst^r your fader a yer therfor and as for Gylmyn he hath not spoken to my mayst^r as yet &c. Jt'm I truste he wylbe your gode Fader for Iohn Say hath told hym

L E T T E R LXII.

*Unto the right worshipful Master, Sir John Paston, Knight, be
this Letter delivered.*

RIGHT worshipful and my especial good Master, I recommend me unto your good mastership, letting you weet that the bearer hereof told me that ye had great marvel that I fend to you no word nor letter of answer of the letters that ye had sent to me to London; as for one letter ye sent to me by Richard Playters' man, and thereof I sent you an answer in a letter by a man of the Prior of Bromholm, and as for other letters there came no more to me but that one.

Item, Master Flemming looketh daily for his horse, and at every time that I meet with him he asketh of me, when his horse should come, and when I heard any word from you; wherefore I pray you fend me word in a letter how he shall be answered, and if the horse shall come let me know when, for and (*if*) he had not trusted thereupon, he would have purveyed him in another place, &c.

Item, John Oter is not yet paid, but as I suppose it shall not be long to till he have it, for he hath spoken to my Master your Father again therefore; and as for Gilmyn he hath not spoken to my Master as yet, &c.

Item, I trust he will be your good Father, for John Say hath
told

hym playnly of hys demen̄g ayenst you and told hym that he
 had the lasse favo^r for your sake &c. . It'm the Erle of Arundell
 ys ¹ Son hath weddyd the Quyne ys suster It'm the lord louell
 ys ² Son hath weddyd my lady Fytzhugh ys doghter &c. It'm
 Ienney desyryth a treti w^t my mayst^r and spake to my mayster
 therof hym sylf in Westm^r hall Jt'm all felaws in the Kyngs
 hows fareid well and wold haue you ther No more to you at
 thys tyme but the holy Trynyte haue you kepyng Wryten at
 london the Monday next after Seynt Volentyn.

Your s^rvant

³ John Wyllys.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark, a radiated Star, consisting
 of nine large and nine small rays, having
 in the centre within a border the Letters

W.S. Pl. xxvi. N^o 4.

Though this Letter contains nothing very curious, yet the easy style of it, and the
 news of the day which it announces to Sir John Paston, make it worthy the Reader's
 notice. His Father's unkindness is likewise just hinted.

¹ Thomas Fitz Alan, Lord Maltravers, eldest Son of William Fitz Alan, Earl of
 Arundel, married Margaret, second Daughter of Richard Widville, Earl Rivers, and
 Sister to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.

He succeeded his Father as Earl of Arundel, in 1487. 3 H. VII. and died in 1524,
 16 H. VIII.

LET.

told him plainly of his demeaning against you, and told him that he had the less favour for your sake, &c.

Item, the Earl of Arundel's ¹ Son hath wedded the Queen's Sister.

Item, the Lord Lovel's ² Son hath wedded my Lady Fitzhugh's Daughter, &c.

Item, Jenney desireth a treaty with my Master, and spake to my Master thereof himself in Westminster-Hall.

Item, all fellows in the King's house fared well, and would have you there. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you (*in*) keeping. Written at London, the Monday next after Saint Valentine.

Your Servant

³ JOHN WYKYS.

London,
Monday 17th of February,
1465. 5 E. IV.

² Francis Lovel, Son and heir to John, Lord Lovel, married Anne, Daughter of Henry, Lord Fitz Hugh. He very soon succeeded his Father as Lord Lovel, and was afterwards created Viscount Lovel.

This nobleman was Lord Chamberlain to Richard III. whom he attended at Bosworth Field, and was killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487, 2 H. VII.

³ Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 16. This Writer had an appointment in the Household of Edward IV. and it may be supposed, from the concluding part of this Letter, that Sir John Paston belonged to it likewise.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

*To oure right trusty and
entierly welbelovid S'vaunt
Iohn Paston th'elder.*

The Duc of Norff.

RIGHT trusty and entierly welbelovid f'vaunt We grete you hertily well And specially praying you that ye will be with us at Framlyngh'm on Sonday next comyng that we may comon w' you there and have youre sadde advise in suche matiers as concernyth gretly to oure weel whiche shall be mynestred unto you at youre comyng prayng you that ye fayle not herof as our speciall trust is in you And our lord p'f've you in his keping Written at Framlyngh'm the xxxj Day of August.

Norff.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The Seal on red Wax, and very perfect.
Impression a Wheat Sheaf, &c. The
Motto imperfect. The Seal has a braid
of twine around it. Pl. xxviii. N^o 5.

We here find that John Paston was one of the Counsel to John Mowbray, the last Duke of Norfolk of that name; and that regular Summonses were sent to those in this confidential station, when any matters of importance arose, on which their deliberations and

L E T

LETTER LXIII.

*To our right trusty and entirely well beloved Servant John
Paston, the elder.*

The Duke of Norfolk.

RIGHT trusty and entirely well beloved Servant, we greet you heartily well, and specially praying you that ye will be with us at Framlingham on Sunday next coming, that we may commune with you there, and have your sad (*serious*) advice in such matters as concerneth greatly to our weal, which shall be ministred (*made known*) unto you at your coming.

Praying you that ye fail not hereof, as our special trust is in you; and our Lord preserve you in his keeping.

Written at Framlingham, the 31st day of August.

NORFOLK.

Framlingham,
31st of August,
before 1466.
6 E. IV.

and advice became necessary; this Summons appears to be on some very material business, which most probably required secrecy, as the purport of it was not communicated, but deferred till he should be arrived at Framlingham.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 3.

K k 2

LET-

LETTER LXII.

*To my reverent and most be trusted
maistrer Iohn Paston Esquyer Duelling
in the Inner Temple be this delivred.*

RYGH T reverent and most be trusted maistr I recōmaunde me in the most lowly wise un to yo^r good and prevyd maysterchep and desiring many days to here of yo^r welfare whiche I be seche god encrese un to his plesauns and un to the p'sp'ite and welfare of your p'son and of all youres And I be seche you of the good cōtynuaunce of your maysterchep at diu'ses tymes befor this writing shewed un to me And S^r ther is non man a lyve that I trust more to than I doo un to you And I am yo^r bedman and so shall remayn be the grace of god all the days of myn liff And S^r I suppose I shall nev^r see you no more nor non of myn frendes Whiche is to me the grettest lamentacon that myght come un to myn herte For S^r by the grace of god I shall go to Rome and in to oder holy places to spende myn dayes of this p'sent liff in the s'vice of god For I hadde lever liffe in gret tribulacion in the s'vice of god in this p'sent liff than for to

This and the following Letter were written by Roger Taverham, a descendant of a Family of that name, long before this time seated at Taverham, in Norfolk. He was now resident at Salisbury, and was going on a pilgrimage to Rome and other holy places, with an intention never to return to England. The style and spelling of the Letters come near to those of modern times.

The methods then in use by which property was conveyed are here fully related, and are matters worthy attention of the Lawyer and Antiquary, and on that account I have thought the contents of these Letters worth preserving.

folowe

L E T T E R LXIV.

*To my reverend and most betruſted Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire,
dwelling in the Inner Temple, be this delivered.*

RIGHT reverend and moſt betruſted Maſter, I recommend me in the moſt lowly wiſe unto your good and proved maſterſhip, and deſiring many days to hear of your welfare, which I beſeech God increaſe unto his pleaſaunce (*pleaſure*) and unto the proſperity and welfare of your perſon, and of all yours. And I beſeech you of the good continuance of your maſterſhip at divers times before this writing ſhewed unto me; and, Sir, there is none man alive that I truſt more to than I do unto you, and I am your Beadsman, and ſo ſhall remain, by the grace of God, all the days of mine life; and, Sir, I ſuppoſe I ſhall never ſee you no more, nor none of mine friends, which is to me the greateſt lamentation that might come unto mine heart, for, Sir, by the grace of God I ſhall go to Rome, and into other holy places to ſpend mine days of this preſent life in the ſervice of God; for I had lever (*rather*) live in great tribulation in the ſervice of God in this preſent life, than for to follow the wretchedneſs of this world.

The Letters ſeem written from the heart, and expreſs the gratitude of one who in his youth had received countenance and protection from the perſon to whom he now wiſhes to return the obligations he thought due to him.

It does not appear with what Lord, he now dwelt at Salisbury.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 19. Seal imperfect.

And.

folowe the wretchednesse of this worlde And syr of on thing I be seche specially yo^r good mayste^rchep that ye wolle shew yo^r good maist^rshep un to my fader in tyme of his nede And that ye wolle recomaunde me in the most lowly wise w^t all reveⁿce un to his good faderhode be sechyng hym that he wole yeff me ev^{er}y day during the dayes of his liff his paternall blissing And I haue m^rvayle fan that I have writen so many letters un to hym be for this tyme that I hadde nev^r non letter Ageyn Whiche is to me the grettest lamentacon that ev^r come to my hert And now knowing that I shall nev^r see hym more nor you nor non other of my frendes m^rvayle ye not thow sorowe is imprended in myn hert but rev^ent maister myn singuler trust remayneth now in yo^r p^rson for S^r And it please you I most nedes write un to your good maist^rchep in the whiche my most trust remayneth for Syr And it please you as for myn inheritaunce And other things whiche shulde come to me after the deth of my fader whoes liff god preserve to his long plesauns knowing that I shall nev^r come ther I hadde lev['] that by yo^r good A vise that ye wolde take it unto you for I hadde lev['] that ye hadde it rather than any p^rson in the worlde during my liff w^t all the p^rfites ther of And if that ye wole make as good evidences for you in that partye as ye can And I shall a seale hem and as you semeth best and in the most secret wise rewle you in this mater And S^r I be seche you to recomaunde me in the most lowly wise to myn rev^ent maist^r Will^{'m} Lumno^r seyeng hym that I am and shall be his p^rpetuall bedman And as ye yenk best ye may telle hym of all these maters And syr I be seche you to recomaunde me w^t all

And, Sir, of one thing I beseech specially your good mastership, that ye will shew your good mastership unto my Father in time of his need, and that ye will recommend me in the most lowly wise with all reverence unto his good fatherhood, beseeching him that he will give me every day, during the days of his life, his paternal blessing ; and I have marvel fan (*since*) that I have written so many letters unto him before this time, that I had never none letter again, which is to me the greatest lamentation that ever came to my heart ; and now knowing that I shall never see him more, nor you, nor none other of mine Friends, marvel ye not that sorrow is impredd (*impressed*) in mine heart.

But reverend Master mine singular trust remaineth now in your person, for Sir, and (*if*) it please you, I must needs write unto your good mastership, in the which my most trust remaineth ; for, Sir, and (*if*) it please you as for mine inheritance and other things which should come to me after the death of my Father, whose life God preserve to his long pleasure ! knowing that I shall never come there, I had lever that by your good advice that ye would take it unto you, for I had lever that ye had it rather than any person in the world, during my life, with all the profits thereof, and if that ye will make as good evidences (*title*) for you in that part as ye can, and I shall seal them ; and as to you seemeth best, and in the most secret wise, rule you in this matter.

And, Sir, I beseech you to recommend me in the most lowly wise to mine reverend Master William Lumnor, saying him (*telling him*) that I am and shall be his perpetual Beadsman, and as ye think best ye may tell him of all these matters ; and, Sir, I beseech
you

rev^ence un to my masteras yo^r wiff And to all other maysters
 And frendes ther And fir that ye wolle thank the bringer of this
 letter whiche hathe ben in my gret tribulacon my good frende
 And Sir whan ye speke w^t my fader recomaunde me un to hym
 w^t all rev^ence And sey un to hym I shall send hym a letter in all
 hast possible and fyr as for this mater demene you as ye wolle
 And I shall doo yo^r plesauns as moche as in me is And rev^ent
 maist^r remitte me sūme letter by the bringer her of of all thes
 maters for he duellith w^t my lorde and he is ryght moche be
 trusted for I knowe wele he wole yef a tendaunce un to you for
 to have sūme letter from you For fyr jt shall not be longe or that
 I go to Rome by the Grace of God And as sone as I have a let-
 ter from you at this tyme I shall send you a noder Ageyn No
 more at this tyme but the holy Trinite haue you in his bliffed
 keping Wreten at Sar' the monday after mydsomer day and lete
 these maters be kept secrete by yo^r best A vife.

Be your poure f^rvūt

Roger Taberham.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LET.

you to recommend me with all reverence unto my Mistrefs your wife, and to all other Masters and Friends there; and for that ye will thank the bringer of this Letter which hath been, in my great tribulation, my good Friend; and, Sir, when ye speak with my Father recommend me unto him with all reverence, and say unto him, I shall send him a Letter in all haste possible.

And, Sir, as for this matter demean you as ye will, and I shall do your pleasure as much as in me is; and, reverend Master, remit me some Letter by the bringer hereof of all these matters, for he dwelleth with my Lord, and he is right much betruſted, for I know well he will give attendance unto you, for to have some Letter from you; for, Sir, it shall not be long ere that I go to Rome by the grace of God; and as soon as I have a Letter from you at this time, I shall send you another again.

No more at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in his blessed keeping. Written at Sarum, the Monday after Midsummer day. And let these matters be kept secret by your best advice.

By your poor Servant

ROGER TAVERHAM.

Salisbury, Monday, June,
before 1466. 6 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXX.

*To my Right Wourshipful
maister Iohn Paston Esquier
be this letter delyvred.*

RIGHT Wourshipful maister I Recōmaunde me un to your maistership and I thank yo^r maistership that hit pleased yo^r maistership to fende me wourde a yen of my lett^r that I fende you by the bryng^r herof S^r as I am enfourmed ye sent me Wourde how that my fader was dede long tyme passed and also ye desired to knowe my titylle of Ryght S^r I am very heyre by the disceas of my fader to a place called Kefwyk in Tauerham with all the apportenauncez and that comyth by enherytaunce and discente to me for I am the helder and heyr and though my lorde¹ Cromwell hath taken Thomas Tav'ham my yonger brother as warde for the same enheritaunce that maketh no mater to me in so moche I am helder brether wher for I besече you to fende me a letter of attournay made to you in my name in the strengest wise that ye can for to entre in to the same lyvelode and I shal affeal that and than I shal do my s^rvice and feaute to the seid lorde Cromwell in all thing as by the tenure of the same lyvelode of olde tyme aught to be done and herin I kno well the king shal cause my lorde Cromwel to do me bothe lawe and right and also my lorde Chaunceler w^t oder lordes diu^rse shal do the same and S^r I besече your maistership to do and to take possession in the saide place w^t the apportenaunce in short tyme for losyng of

¹ Humphry Bouchier, Lord Cromwell, so created in 1461.

L E T T E R LXV.

To my right worshipful Master, John Paston, Esquire, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worshipful Master, I recommend me unto your mastership, and I thank your mastership that it pleased your mastership to send me word again of my Letter that I sent you by the bringer hereof; Sir, as I am informed ye sent me word how that my Father was dead long time passed, and also ye desired to know my title of right; Sir, I am very heir by the decease of my Father to a place called Kewick, in Taverham, with all the appurtenances, and that cometh by inheritance and descent to me, for I am the elder, and heir; and though my Lord Cromwell hath taken Thomas Taverham, my younger brother, as ward for the same inheritance, that maketh no matter to me, inasmuch (*as*) I am elder brother; wherefore I beseech you to send me a Letter of Attorney, made to you in my name, in the strongest wise that ye can, for to enter into the same livelihood, and I shall assent that, and then I shall do my service and fealty to the said Lord Cromwell in all things, as by the tenure of the same livelihood of old time, ought to be done; and herein I know well the King shall cause my Lord Cromwell to do me both law and right; and also my Lord Chancellor, with other Lords divers, shall do the same; and, Sir, I beseech your mastership to do, and to take possession in the said place with the appurtenances in short time, for losing of the rent this year passed.

the rent this yer passed And S^r as for the place of Attylbrigge that my moder in lawe now duellith in S^r yo^r maistershep shal right not attempte ther now in for my lorde of ² Warwik hath seen how the same place was yeven me by testament by S^r Roger Dal-lyng after the diseafe of my fader whiche is redy to be shewed and therupon my lorde of Warwik hath comaunded certeyn gentilmen to entre in the same place and yo^r maistership hadde be moved ther in or this but for cause that ye love wel ³ Lumpno^r and that my moder in lawe is his sister but I knowe wel hit woul cost CCC li. but that she shal be dispossessed of that place in short tyme And maist^r how ye woul be rewled in the seid place of Keswyk I be seche you to sende me wourde as my sengler trnst is in you for and ye woulde not take possession in the saide place my lorde ⁴ Wenlok woulde haue that ful fayne for all the Contray knowith while that while I leve I am heyr and non other and therfor I beseeche you in all hast sende me wourde by the bryngger herof in hast q' mora trahit p'ic'l'm and S^r I would Come speke w^t you I am seke and may not goo but telle the bryngg^r heroff all yo^r entent for my liff duryng I hadde lever that ye hadde that place for j^d than a nother man thow he woulde yeff me meche mony for yo^r maistership y' shewed to me in my yong Age and God kepe you, &c.

Yo^r Chapeleyn

⁵ Roger Taberham

12. by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Seal, a Head erased on an Helmet, having the Letter I on one side and B on the other. Pl. xxviii. N^o 6.

² Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

³ William Lunner, of Mannington, in Norfolk.

And Sir, as for the place of Attlebrigg, that my Mother in law now dwelleth in, Sir, your mastership shall right not attempt there now in, for my Lord of ² Warwick hath seen how the same place was given me by testament, by Sir Roger Dalling, after the decease of my Father, which is ready to be shewed; and thereupon my Lord of Warwick hath commanded certain gentlemen to enter in the same place, and your mastership had been moved therein ere this, but for cause that ye love well ³ Lumnor, and that my Mother-in-law is his sister; but I know well that will cost three hundred pounds, but that she shall be dispossessed of that place in short time; and, Master, how ye will be ruled in the said place of Kefwick I beseech you to send me word, as my singular trust is in you, for and (*if*) ye would not take possession in the said place, my Lord ⁴ Wenlock would have that full fain, for all the Country knoweth while that while I live I am heir and none other, and therefore I beseech you in all haste send me word by the bringer hereof in haste, quia mora trahit periculum, and, Sir, I would come (*and*) speak with you; I am sick and may not go; but tell the bringer hereof all your intent, for my life during I had lever (*rather*) that ye had that place for one penny, than another man though he would give me much money, for your mastership shewed to me in my young age, and God keep you, &c.

Your Chaplain

⁵ ROGER TAVERHAM.

July, before 1466. 6 E. IV.

² John Wenlock was created Baron Wenlock, in 1461, by Edward IV. but he afterwards left the York party, and joined that of Lancaster; he was cleft down with a battle axe by the Duke of Somerset, for not coming up in time at the battle of Tewkesbury, in 1471, whereby that battle was lost.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 19.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXII.

*Be this delyvred to
Mastyr Iohn Paston.*

I Recomaunde me unto you as unknowyn and as for the wryting I send unto you the cause why yt was nate endossed was for the berer ther of knew yow wel J now And as for youre Coffyn Mary she ys no longer w^t us as a pon Seynt Mathewys Evyn she departyd from me And went to Awdry Croxeston And she told me that ye wold pay for her borde ther but on thyng I let you know she hathe demenyd her ful symply bothe for youre Worship and also for her awne ther ys but few wⁱⁿ oure plasse but they know how yt is w^t her And al by her awne bessynes of her tung' And I had knowyn as myche at the begynnyng as I have don sythe I wold not haue delt in the mater nat for xl. pound for I wys she ys no thyng so sadde as I wold she wer No more to you at thys tyme but the holy gost haue you in his kepyng And send you youre hertys esse I p'y you hertly y^t I may spke w^t you.

B. D. M. S.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. viii. N^o 2.

Seal,
A Flower.
Pl. xxviii. N^o 2.

L E T

This appears not to have been the first Letter which J. Paston had received relative to the behaviour of his cousin Mary. It seems by it, that she had happened of an accident too common in our age, but which, in the times here treated of, was looked upon as disgraceful in a high degree, not only to the person, but likewise to her family and friends. I wish the shame of it was more attended to now than it is, as that would perhaps prevent the ruin of many young people of both sexes; and in most cases of this kind, the female,

L E T T E R LXVI.

Be this delivered to Master John Paston.

I Recommend me unto you as unknown; and as for the writing I send unto you, the cause why it was not endorsed was, for the bearer thereof knew you well enough, and as for your Cousin Mary she is no longer with us, as upon Saint Matthew's Even she departed from me, and went to Audrey Croxston; and she told me that ye would pay for her board there; but one thing I let you know, she hath demeaned her full simply, both for your worship, and also for her own; there is but few within our place but they know how it is with her, and all by her own business of her tongue. And (*if*) I had known as much at the beginning, as I have done since, I would not have dealt in the matter not for forty pounds, for I wis she is nothing so sad as I would she were. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Ghost have you in his keeping, and send you your heart's ease; I pray you heartily I may speak with you.

B. D. M. S.

No exact date of the year can be affixed to this Letter, which appears to have been written in September or October, before 1466. 6 E. IV.

female, for the first offence, is generally intitled to our pity, however abandoned she may become afterwards. I am sorry, as an acting Magistrate, to say, that licentiousness in this respect is an increasing evil, affecting not only the morals of the lower classes in an amazing degree, but adding considerably to the already enormous burden of the Poor's Rates.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 17.

L E T-

LETTER LXIII.

*To Mestresse Margrete
Paston be thys delyvryd.*

PLEASE it yow to weete y^t I sende yow by Barker the berer heroff iij tracle pottes of Geane as my potecarie swerytht on to me and mooreovyr that they weer neu^r ondoo syns y^t they come from Geane wheroff ye shalle take as many as pleasyth yow neu^rthe lesse my brother Iohn sente to me for ij y^r for I most besече yow y^t he maye haue at y^e lest on ther is on potte y^tis morkyn ondre y^e bottome ij tymes w^t thyes letteris M. P. whyche potte I haue best truste on too and nexte hym to y^e wryghe potte and I mystruste moost y^e potte y^t hathe a krotte abovyn in the toppe lesse y^t he hathe ben ondoone and also the other ij pottys be prentyd w^t y^t marchauntys marke too tymes on the coueryng and that other pott is butt onys morkyn but w^{on} prente notw^tstondyng I hadde lyke othe and promyse for on as well as for alle.

ii ½ by ii.

I have given this Letter to shew the very great repute in which the liquor here mentioned was held at this time, Sir John Paston's observations to prove it genuine manifest the esteem in which it stood as a Cordial. Geane, Gin or Geneva, (if that be the thing here meant) is a compound water, procured from the berries of the Juniper, distilled with brandy or malt spirits, and was for many years drank in improper quantities by the lower order of people in this kingdom, and attended with very pernicious effects; as a Medicine it has now its uses.

In a Letter which I have examined since I copied the above, I find the following order: "I prey yow send me by the next man that comyth fro London ij pottys of tryacle of Ienue, they shall cost xvjd."

L E T T E R LXVII.

To Mistress Margaret Paston, be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet that I send you by Barker the bearer hereof three treacle pots of Geane (*q? Gin or Geneva*), as my Apothecary sweareth unto me, and moreover that they were never undone since they came from Geane (*Geneva*), whereof ye shall take as many as pleaseth you, nevertheless my Brother John sent to me for two, therefore I must beseech you that he may have at the least one; there is one pot that is marked under the bottom two times, with these letters M. P. which pot I have best trust unto, and next him to the wryghe (*q? twisted*) pot, and I mistrust most the pot that hath a krott (*q? a crack, or piece chipt off*) above on the top, lest that he hath been undone; and also the other two pots be printed with the Merchant's mark two times over the covering, and that other pot is but once marked but with one print, notwithstanding I had like oath and promise for one as well as for all.

JOHN PASTON.

Between 1460 and 1470,
1 and 10 E. IV.

I believe I am mistaken, therefore, in calling the Medicine mentioned in this Letter Gin or Geneva; it seems from this last extract to be Treacle of Genoa, a City in Italy, from whence various drugs and medicines are imported.

This Letter has no date, and the subscribing signature is torn off; it was, however, written by Sir John Paston to his Mother, in the reign of Edward IV.

LETTER LXXIII.

*To the worshipful
Sir Iohn Paston Knyght
be thys delu'yd f'n hast.*

WORSHIPFULL and with all myn hert interly wilbe-
loved Nevoue I recomaunde me to yow desyryng to here
of yo^r prosp'ite and wilefayr which I pray all mighti god mayn-
teyn and encres to his plesour and yo^r herts desir thankyng god
of yo^r amending and helth forthermore c'tefying yow y^e Sir
Rob^t * Fenys hath doon grete hurte in y^e lyuelode whiche
p'teyned to my * husbond and me in y^e Shire of Kent wherein
Will'm Kene and oy^r p'fones arn enfeffid and gretly troubleth
hit and receyneth y^e issuez and p'fitez of gret p't of theym and
as of my seid husbonds lyuelode aswell in y^e fame Shire as in oy^r
shirez besyde myn Iount' my seid husbond whan he departyd
toward y^e feld of saint Albons made and ordeyned his wille y^e
I shuld haue y^e rewell of all his lyuelode and of Edwardes his
soon and myn and to take y^e issuez and p'fitez of the seid lyue-
lode to y^e fyndyng of his and myn seid son to paie his dettez and
to kepe y^e right and title of y^e fame lyuelode which I myght nat

I have given this Letter to shew the great desire which the Relations and other con-
nections of a deceased man of property, always expressed to get possession of his estates, in
prejudice to the minor and widow, and of the steps they took to obtain it.

This Letter likewise makes us acquainted with the process the Lady wished to pursue,
through the means of Sir John Paston, to regain her property.

* This was a knightly Family, of great worth and worship, and a branch of it became
Barons Dacre, of Gillesland.

accordyng

L E T T E R LXVIII.

To the worshipful Sir John Paston, Knight, be this delivered in haste.

WORSHIPFUL and with all mine heart entirely well-beloved Nephew, I recommend me to you, desiring to hear of your prosperity and welfare, which I pray Almighty God maintain and increase to his pleasure, and your heart's desire, thanking God of your amending and health. Furthermore certifying you that Sir Robert ¹ Fynes hath done great hurt in the livelihood which pertained to my ² Husband and me, in the Shire of Kent, wherein William Keene and other persons are enfeoffed, and greatly troubleth it, and receiveth the issues and profits of great part of them, and as of my said Husband's livelihood, as well in the same Shire as in other Shires.

Beside mine jointure, my said Husband, when he departed towards the field of Saint Alban's, made and ordained his will, that I should have the rule of all his livelihood, and of Edward his son and mine, and to take the issues and profits of the said livelihood, to the finding of his and mine said son, to pay his debts, and to keep the right and title of the same livelihood,

² Elizabeth Poynings, the writer of this Letter, and the Daughter of John Paston, married Robert Poynings, a younger Son of Robert, Lord Poynings, by whom she had her Son Edward here mentioned. He was Lord Deputy of Ireland, and during his administration in 1494, 10 H. VII. those Statutes called Poynings' Laws were passed, by which the power of the Irish Parliament was restrained, and their Acts subjected to the revision of the Privy Council of England. He died of a pestilential Fever, in 1522, 14 H. VIII. aged about 62 years.

These, with other Acts enacting the dependency of Ireland on this kingdom, were repealed in 1785, 25 Geo. III.

accordyng occupie for Sr Edward Ponynge myn feid husbonds
 brother and so fith myn feid husbonds dep'tyng I assigned y^e y^e
 feid Sr Edward for c'teyn yereez shuld haue and take y^e reue-
 nuez of y^e man^s of Westwode Estwell lenelond horsmonden to-
 tyndon Eccles Staundon and Combesden p'cell of y^e feid lyue-
 lode which arn clerely yerely worth lxxvj li. xiiij^s iiij^d to y^e entent
 y^e y^e feid Sr Edward shuld paye myn husbonds dettez for he
 wold not suffer me to be in rest w'out y^e he myght haue a rewell
 in y^e lyuelode and after y^e feid assignemēt made y^e feid Rob^t
 Fenes cont'y to trowth and w'oute cause of right int'upted me
 and y^e feid Sr Edward aswell of and in y^e feid man^s as of oy^r
 man's undirwretyn wher uppon y^e same Sr Edward fuet unto y^e
 kyngs highnesse and hade y^e kynges honorable lres undir his
 signet directed to y^e said Sr Rob^t Fenys y^e tenour wherof I send
 unto yow herin inclosid and as for residue of y^e lyuelode of myn
 feid husbonds and myn w'in y^e same Shire of Kent wherin y^e
 said Will'm Kene and oy^r arn enfeffed that is to say y^e man^r of
 Tyrlyngh'm Wolu'ton Halton Newyngton Bastram Rokesley
 and Northcray w'ith th' app'ten'ncez I of them by myn feid hus-
 bonds wille shuld haue residue and take y^e issuez and p'fitez of
 theym contr'ye to right and conciens takyng away my Ryght
 and brekyng my said husbonds wille y^e feid Rob^t Fenys hath
 doon gret wast and hurte ther and long tym hath take upe y^e
 reuenuez and p'fitez of y^e same wher thorough I haue not my
 ryght and y^e feid wille may not be p'fo'med Wherfor I hertely

which I might not accordingly occupy for Sir Edward Poynings, mine said Husband's Brother, and so since my said Husband's departing, I assigned that the said Sir Edward for certain years should have and take the revenues of the Manors of Westwood, Eastwell, Loneland, Horsemonden, Totingdon, Eccles, Standon, and Combefden, parcel of the said livelihood, which are clearly yearly worth 76*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the intent that the said Sir Edward should pay mine Husband's debts, for he would not suffer me to be in rest without that he might have a rule in the livelihood; and after the said assignment made, the said Robert Fynes, contrary to truth, and without cause of right, interrupted me and the said Sir Edward, as well of and in the said manors as of other manors underwritten, whereupon the same Sir Edward sued unto the King's Highness, and had the King's honourable Letters under his signet, directed to the said Sir Robert Fynes, the tenour whereof I send unto you herein enclosed; and as for residue of the livelihood of mine said Husband's and mine, within the same Shire of Kent, wherein the said William Keene and other are enfeoffed, that is to say, the manor of Tyrlingham, Wolverton, Halton, Newington, Bartram, Rokesley and Northcray, with the appurtenances, I of them, by mine said Husband's will, should have residue, and take the issues and profits of them, contrary to right and conscience, taking away my right, and breaking my said Husband's will, the said Robert Fynes hath done great waste and hurt there, and long time hath taken up the revenues and profits of the same, where thorough I have not my right, and the said will may not be performed.

Where--

pray yow y^e ze will labour unto y^e kynges highnes at yt lyketh hym addres his honorable lres to be directed to y^e seid Rob't Fenys dischargyng hym utterly of y^e menuraunce occupacon and receyt of y^e reuenuez of y^e said man's of Tyrlyngh'm and oy^e accordyng to y^e tenor of y^e lres labored by S^r Edwarde for y^e man's assigned to hym from ye Kyngs highnes directyd to y^e fame Rob't Fynes or strayter if hit may be and y^e I and myn assignez may peasseble rejoie theym and if eny p^rson wold attempt to do y^e contr'ye y^e a comaundement yf it ples y^e kyngs highnes by hym myght be yevyn to my lorde Chaunceller to seall writtyngs sufficiaunt wth his gret Seall in eydyng and assisting me and myn assignez in y^e fame And as for y^e man's of Esthall Faukh'm Afslie and Chelsfeld wth th' app'ten'ntez in y^e seid schire of Kent whereof my hysbond at his dep'tur was seassed and my Son sethens unto y^e tyme y^e ye Erle of ³ Kent wthout eny Inq'ffion or title of right for y^e Kyng by colour of y^e Kynges lres patentez entret into theym and hym therof put owte and now my lorde of ⁴ Effex occupieth them in lyke man^r and fo^rme yf eny remedy therin wilbe hade J pray yow attempt hit also forther more I hertely pray yow y^e if eny gen^rall p^rdon be g^runtyd y^e J may haue on for Iohn Dane my S^runt whom y^e said Rob't Fenys of gret malice hath endyted of felonye and y^e ze secretly labour y^{is} and fend me an aunswer in writtyng in as godly hast

³ Edmund Grey, Lord Grey of Ruthin, and Baron Hastings, was created Earl of Kent, in 1465; he died in 1489.

Wherefore I heartily pray you that ye will labour unto the King's Highness, that it liketh him (*to*) address his honourable Letters to be directed to the said Robert Fynes, discharging him utterly of the menurance, occupation, and receipt of the revenues of the said manors of Tyrlingham and other, according to the tenour of the letters laboured by Sir Edward, for the manors assigned to him from the King's Highness, directed to the same Robert Fynes, or straiter if it may be, and that I and mine assigns may peaceably re-enjoy them; and if any person would attempt to do the contrary, that a commandment, if it please the King's Highness, by him might be given to my Lord Chancellor to seal writings sufficient with his Great Seal, in aiding and assisting me and mine assigns in the same.

And as for the manors of Easthall, Faulkham, Afslie, Chelsfield, with the appurtenances in the said Shire of Kent, whereof my Husband at his departure was seised, and my Son sithen (*since*), unto the time that the Earl of ³ Kent without any inquisition or title of right for the King, by colour of the King's Letters Patents, entered into them, and him thereof put out, and now my Lord of ⁴ Essex occupieth them in like manner and form; if any remedy therein will be had, I pray you attempt it.

Also, furthermore I heartily pray you that if any general pardon be granted, that I may have one for John Dane my servant, whom the said Robert Fynes of great malice hath endicted of felony, and that ye secretly labour this, and send me an answer in

⁴ Henry, Viscount Bourchier, &c. Uncle to King Edward IV. was created Earl of Essex, in 1461; he was succeeded by his Son Henry, in 1483.

writing

as ze may as soon as y^t may ples yow to fend me passels of Costes and expencs ze bere and pay for y^e said causez I will truely Content yow hit of y^e same and ou^r y^t rewarde yow to yo^r plesso^r by y^e g[']ce of Ihu quo haue yow in his blessed keping Wrettyn in Suthwerk the xvth daie of Decembyr.

By your awnt

^s Elizabeth Donpings.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

^s Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 14.

LETTER LXIX.

*To my ryght wyrshypfull
mayster Sr Iohn Paston
knyzt be thys letter
delyvryd in hast.*

I Grytte you well and fend you God ys bleffing and myn desyryng you to fend me werd how that ye spede in youre maters For I thynk ryght leng tyll I here tydyngys from you and in alwyse J avyse you for to be ware that ye kepe wyfly your wrytyngys that ben of Charge that it com not in her handys that may hurt you hereafter your fader wham god affole in hys trobyll seson set more by hys wrytyngys and evydens
than

writing in as goodly haste as ye may ; as soon as it may please you to send me parcels of costs and expences ye bear and pay for the said causes, I will truly content you it of the same, and over that reward you to your pleasure, by the grace of Jesu, who have you in his blessed keeping. Written in Southwark, the 15th day of December,

By your aunt

ELIZABETH POYNINGS.

Southwark, 15th December,
between 1465 and 1471.
5 and 11 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXIX.

To my right worshipful Master, Sir John Paston, Knight, be this Letter delivered in haste.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, desiring you to send me word how that ye speed in your matters, for I think right long till I hear tidings from you ; and in alwyse (*by all means*) I advise you for to beware that ye keep wisely your writings that be of charge, that it (*they*) come not in their hands that may hurt you hereafter ; your Father, whom God assoil ! in his trouble's season, set more by his writings and

than he dede by any of hys moveabell godys. remember that yf the wer had from you ye kowd neu' gyte no moo such as the be for your parte &c. It' J wold ye shold take hyde that yf any processe Com owte a yenst me or a yenst any of tho that wer endyted a fore the Coroner that J myght haue knowlych therof and to p'vey a remedy therfor. It' as for your fader ys wyll J wold ye shold take ryght gode Counsell therin as J am enformyd it may be prevyd thogh no man take no charge thys twelfmo'th ye may haue a letter of mynystracyon to such as ye wyll and mynyster the godys and take no charge. I avyse you that ye in no wyse take no charge therof tyll ye know more than ye doo yet for ye may verely knowe by that your Unkell Will seyde to you and to me, that thay wyll lay the charge uppon you and me for moo' thyngys then ys exprest in your fader ys wyll the whych shud be to grete for you or me to bere but as for me I will not be to hesty to take it uppon me J ensure you, and at the reverens of god spede your maters so thys terme that we may be in rest hereafter and lette not for no labo'r for the feason and remember the grete cost and charge that we haue had hedyr toward and thynk verely it may not lenge endur ye know

This Letter is endorsed in an ancient hand, as follows, "A very good Lrē moving Sir J. P. to be carefull for his wrytings and evidence and how much his ffather did esteeme of them."

The disputes concerning Sir John Fastolf's Will being undetermined at John Paston's death, his widow was fearful lest, by taking the management of his affairs, she should bring both herself and her Son into trouble; she therefore cautions him against interfering.

Her admonitions to Sir John respecting his attention to his writings and evidences, shew us the value our ancestors set upon their title-deeds, &c.

evidence than he did by any of his moveable goods ; remember, that if they were had from you, ye could never get no more such as they be for your part, &c.

Item, I would ye should take heed that if any Proceſs come out againſt me, or againſt any of thoſe that were indicted afore the Coroner, that I might have knowledge thereof, and to purvey a remedy therefore.

Item, as for your Father's will, I would ye ſhould take right good counſel therein, as I am informed it may be proved, though no man take no charge this twelvemonth ; ye may have a Letter of adminiſtration to ſuch as ye will, and adminiſter the goods and take no charge ; I adviſe you that ye in no wiſe take no charge thereof till ye know more than ye do yet, for ye may verily know by that your Uncle William ſaid to you and to me, that they will lay the charge upon you and me for more things than is expreſſed in your Father's will, the which ſhould be too great for you or me to bear, but as for me I will not be too haſty to take it upon me I aſſure you ; and at the reverence of God ſpeed your matters ſo this term, that we may be in reſt hereafter, and let not for no labour for the ſeaſon, and remember the great coſt and charge that we have had hithertoward, and think verily it may not long endure ; ye know what ye left when ye were laſt at

The whole Letter is replete, with good advice to a young man juſt become his own Maſter, by the death of his Father, and convinces us that the Writer knew mankind, and wiſhed her Son to profit by her experience.

N. B. The date may be later than I have placed it, but the reaſons for giving the Letter remain the ſame.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

what ye left when ye wer last at hom and wyte it verely thereys no mor in thys Countray to bere owte no charge w^t J awyse you to enquer wyfely yf ye canne gyte any more ther as ye be for els by my feth I feer els it will not be well w^t ous and fend me word in haft hough ye doo and whether ye haue your laste dedys that ye fayled for playnly they er not in thys Contrey it ys told me in Confell that Ric Calle hath nyer conqueryd your uncle Will w^t fayre promyse twochyng hys lyflode and other thyngs the whych shold p^rvayll hym gretly as he sayth be ware of hym and of hys felowe be myn auyse God sende you gode spede in all your maters Wryten at Caster the moreu next after Symon and Iude wher as J wold not be at thys tyme but for your sake So mot I ches.

By your moder.

12 by 6.

L E T T E R LXX.

SYR it is so y^t thys fat^rday John Rus sent me word by Rob^t Botler y^t Will^m Yeluⁿton hathe ben thys iij dayis in Yermothe for to get new wytnessys up to London and as it is thowt by the seid Iohn Rus and Rob^t Botler ther wytnessyng is for to proue y^t it was Sr John F. wyll y^t ther schold be morteyfyd iij^c mark by yer to y^e colage and also y^t syche astat as my fadyr took
her

home, and weet it verily, there is no more in this country to bear out no charge with. I advise you to enquire wisely if ye can get any more there as (*where*) ye be, for else by my faith, I fear else it will not be well with us; and send me word in haste how ye do, and whether ye have your last deeds that ye failed, for plainly they are not in this country; it is told me in counsel that Richard Calle hath nigher conquered your Uncle William with fair promise, touching his livelihood and other things, the which should prevail him greatly as he saith; beware of him and of his Fellow by mine advice. God send you good speed in all your matters. Written at Caister, the morrow next after Symon and Jude, where as I would not be at this time but for your sake, so might I choose.

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Caister, Wednesday,
29th of October, 1466.
6 E. IV.

LETTER LXX.

John Paston, to Sir John Paston, Knight.

SIR, it is so that this Saturday John Rus sent me word by Robert Butler, that William Yelverton hath been this three days in Yarmouth, for to get new witnesss up to London, and it is thought by the said John Rus and Robert Butler their witnessing is for to prove that it was Sir John Fastolf's will that there should be amortised 300 marks (200*l.*) by year to the College; and also that such estate as my Father took here at Caister,

her at Caſt^r at lames next befor y^t Sr John F. dyid was delyu'yd to my fadyr to y^e intent for to perform y^e feyd wyll Barth'ew Elys John Appylby and John Clerk ar the wytnessys And as for Barthew Elys he is owtlawyd and also men say in yermowthe y^t he is bawde betwyx a clerk of Yermowthe and hys owne wyfe And as for John Appylby he is half frentyk and so take in the towne notw^tstandyng he is an attorney as Barthew Elys is in the baylys coort of Yermowthe And as for John Clerk of gorleston he is ow^tlawyd at Sr John Fastolfys swte and at dyu's othyr menys notw^tstandyng he is thorow w^t Sr Thowys for Sr J. F. for thys cause y^t the feyd Clerk was on of Sr Thowys last wytnessys befor thys I trow Iohn Loer shall be anothyr wyttneſſe As for Batthew Elys and Iohn Appylby they lye thys nyht at blyborough onward on her wey to londonward make good weche on hem I pray yow send vs seme good tydyngs Wretyn the sat^d day lat at nyght next aftyr Kandylmas day J pray yow remēbyr John Grey and John burgeys we haue hom the most part of yo^r barly saue fro Wyntⁿton and y^t I troſt to haue y^{is} next wek or ellys we wyll ſtrat for it by the grace of god whom I beſeche

On the back of this Letter in an ancient hand is written, "Testes idonei ad negandū
"veritatem, ut patet infra."

The disposal of Sir John Fastolf's large property occasioned many long and expensive contests, some claiming by heirship, some by gift, and others by different titles under his Will.

The present dispute seems to have been relative to the Estate intended for the foundation of his College at Caister.

mak

Caister, at Lammas next before that Sir John Fastolf died, was delivered to my Father to the intent for to perform the said will.

Bartholomew Ellis, John Appleby, and John Clerk are the witnesses; and as for Bartholomew Ellis he is outlawed, and also men say in Yarmouth, that he is bawd betwixt a Clerk of Yarmouth and his own wife. And as for John Appleby he is half frentyk (*crazy*) and so taken in the town, notwithstanding he is an attorney, as Bartholomew Ellis is, in the Bailiff's court of Yarmouth; and as for John Clerk of Gorleston, he is outlawed at Sir John Fastolf's suit, and at divers other men's, notwithstanding he is through with Sir Thomas for Sir John Fastolf, for this cause that the said Clerk was one of Sir Thomas Howys's last witnesses before this. I trow John Loer shall be another witness; as for Bartholomew Ellis and John Appleby they lie this night at Blighborough, onward on their way to London ward; make good watch on them.

I pray you send us some good tidings.

Written the Saturday late at night, next after Candelmas-day. I pray you remember John Grey and John Burges; we have home the most part of your barley, save from Winterton, and that I trust to have the next week, or else we will strait (*distrain q?*) for it by the grace of God, whom I beseech make you good.

The account of the Characters of those, who were going to London to be examined on this occasion, is curious.

This Letter has neither subscription nor date, but by the contents it appears to have been written to Sir John Paston by his Brother, and not till after the death of their Father, it could not be written therefore before 1466.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 12.

I think

mak yow good J thynk ther comyng vp is for to dysproue yo^r
wytttnessys y^t he had in to the chance'ry.

J. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xi. N^o 10.

LETTER LXXJ.

*To my Ryght Worshypfull
Maistras Margyt Paston wedowe*

RYGH T worchypfull Maistras after dew recomendacon
please your gode maistrashyp to wete that J comyned
late wyth your entier welbelouyd son Sr John Paston of the fun-
dacon of my maister Fastolf Collage myght ben at Cambrygge
yn case hyt shall nat bee at Castre nether at feynt Benetts be-
cause that uniuer'syte lyeth neere the cuntree of Norff and Suff. for
albe it my lord of Wynchestr ys disposed to found a Collage yn
Oxford for my feyd maister to be prayd for yhyt wyth moch
lesse Cost he myght make som othyr memorialle also yn Cam-
brygge And y^t weere of ij Clerkys iij or iiij scolers founded at
leest wyth the value of gode benefices and ryche p'sonages that
myght be purshased the Adoowsons wyth moch lesse goodes
then lordshyppes or maners may And I fonde your son well
disposed to meofe and excyte my feyd lord Also now the Crist-
m'sse

I think their coming up is for to disprove your witnesses that ye had into the Chancery.

JOHN PASTON.

February, after 1466.

6 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXI.

To my right worshipful Mistress, Margaret Paston, Widow.

RIGHT worshipful Mistress, after due recommendation, please your good mistreship to weet that I communed late with your entirely well-beloved son, Sir John Paston, if the foundation of my Master Fastolf's College might be at Cambridge, in case it shall not be at Caister, neither at Saint Benet's, because that University lieth near the country of Norfolk and Suffolk; for all be it, my Lord of Winchester is disposed to found a College in Oxford for my said Master to be prayed for, yet with much less cost he might make some other memorial also in Cambridge, and (*if*) it were of two Clerks and three or four scholars, founded at least with the value of good Benefices and rich Parsonages, that might be purchased the advowsons, with much less goods than Lordships or manors may; and I found your son well disposed to move and excite my said Lord.

VOL. IV.

O o

Also

m'ffe weke next before the feest att london my lord Wynchester called me to hym yn p'sence of S^r John and desyrid hym effectually to be my gode wyller and maister wold hafe no wordes rehersed on my behalf And he seyde full welle wold Jhu Maistras that my gode maist^r that was som tyme your husbond yn my seyde maist^r Fastolf lyfe dayes as he shewed to me their coude hafe founded yn hys hert to hafe trusted and lovyd me as my maister Fastolf dyd And that he wold not hafe geven credence to the malycouste c'tryved talys that Frere Br'kley W. Barker and othys ymagyned ontruly savyng your reu'ence of me And now ye may opynly ondrestand the sothe and your son S^r John also And yhyt for all that J put neuyr my maister Fastolf lyfelode yn trouble for alle the vnkyndnesse and cevetuse that was shewed me As I hafe declared to the berer heroff that I know ye trust welle to whom yn thys ye may gefe credence at thys tyme god amend J Russe.

I wold he had ben at Irlād for one Day ys fake.

Yo^r

W. W.

And I thank you hertly for my pore woman she shuld Com to you at your cōmaundm't late or rathe but for gelosye and mysdemyng of peple that hafe me yn greete awayt And ye know welle maistras better ys afrende vnknow then knowen the world ys to mysdemyng and redy to make dyvysyon and debate that

The various matter treated of in this Letter gives it a claim to be inserted in this collection, especially as it discovers the characters and views of many persons mentioned in this work.

It has no date, nor can we clearly ascertain how long after 1466 it must have been written; 'tis probable not a great while.

comyth

Also now the Christmas week next before the feast at London, my Lord Winchester called me to him in presence of Sir John, and desired him effectually to be my good willer; and Master would have no words rehearsed on my behalf, and he said, full well would Jesu, Mistress, that my good Master that was some time your Husband, in my said Master Fastolf's life days, as he shewed to me, then could have found in his heart to have trusted and loved me as my Master Fastolf did, and that he would not have given credence to the maliciously contrived tales that Friar Brackley, W. Barker and others imagined untruly, saving your reverence, of me. And now ye may openly understand the sooth, and your son Sir John also; and yet for all that I put never my Master Fastolf's livelihood in trouble, for all the unkindness and covetousness that was shewed me, as I have declared to the bearer hereof, that I know ye trust well, to whom in this ye may give credence at this time.

God amend J. Rufs, I would he had been at Ireland for one day's sake.

Your

WILLIAM WORCESTER.

And I thank you heartily for my poor woman, she should come to you at your commandment late or rathe (*early*), but for jealousy or misdeeming of people that have me in great await (*that mean to do me mischief*); and ye know well, Mistress, better is a friend unknown than known; the world is so misdeeming and ready to make division and debate that cometh of an envious dis-

William Wainfleet, the founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford, was at this time Bishop of Winchester, his partiality for this University is therefore easily to be accounted for.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 24.

comyth of an envyouſe diſpoſicon And J am ryght glad that Caſtr ys and ſhall be at your comaundment and yowres yn eſp'ialle A ryche Juelle yt ys at neede for all the cuntre yn tyme of werre And my maiſt^r F. wold rather he had nevyr bylded yt then hyt ſhuld be yn the gouu'nce of eny ſovereyn that wole oppreſſe the Cuntree And I fynde the Relygyoux of ſeynt Benetts full vnkynde toke Away a Chambre the elder Abbot had put me yn poſſeſſyon for my ſolace when I myzt com thedr and deſport me And toke that chambre to Maiſt^r Iohn Smyth that Sr Thomas Howys ſeyd to me was none holfom counceller yn the reformation of the laſt teſtam't made but ij executo's to haſe the rule allone J wold he had nevyr medled of yt that councell made moch trouble I pray you kepe thys lett^r cloſe to your ſylf as I truſt you and Sr Jamys and alſo yn R. Toly that I vndreſtand hym cloſe and juſt I had no tyme to ſpeke w'yn now late when I was but one day at Norwych W. B'rker ſclaundred me yn certeyn mat's of gode to the ſome of v^c m'rk that Reynold Harneys ſhuld kepe and take me half wold Ihu Erker had ſeyd true hyt myzt haſe do me moch gode And maiſtras as I dar deſyre you I p'y you rec'maund me to my beſt maiſtras your moder Agnes for ſhe fauorued me and dyd me grete cherytee to be the better diſpoſed to hyr ſon Maiſt^r Iohn And by my ſoule yt made me the hertyer to ſafe the lyfelode fro trouble or from claymes as I ſupport me to alle the world I put nevyr maner ne lyfelode of my Maiſt^r Faſtolf yn trouble ne entitled no crettur to na place and ye may ſpeke wyth hyr herof when ye be allone.

9 by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

REC=

position. And I am right glad that Caister is and shall be at your commandment, and yours in especial, a rich jewel it is at need for all the country in time of war ; and my Master Fastolf would rather he had never builded it, than it should be in the governance of any fovereign that will opprefs the country. And I find the religious of Saint Benet's full unkind took away a chamber the elder Abbot had put me in poffeffion for my folace, when I might come thither and desport me, and took that chamber to Master John Smyth, that Sir Thomas Howys faid to me, was none wholesome counfeller in the reformation of the laft testament made but two Executors to have the rule alone, I would he had never meddled of it, that counfel made much trouble ; I pray you keep this Letter close to yourself, as I trust you and Sir James, and also in R. Toly, that I understand him close and juft.

I had no time to fpeak within now late, when I was but one day at Norwich, W. Barker flandered me in certain matters of good to the fum of 500 marks (333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) that Reynold Harnays should keep and take one half ; would Jesu Barker had faid true, it might have done me much good ; and miftrefs as I dare desire you, I pray you recommend me to my best Miftrefs, your Mother Agnes, for she favoured me and did me great charity, to be the better difpofed to her Son Master John, and by my foul it made me the heartier to fave the livelihood from trouble or from claims, as I report me to all the world, I put never manor nor livelihood of my Master Fastolf's in trouble, nor entitled no creature to no place, and ye may fpeak to her hereof when ye be alone.

After 1466. 6 E. IV.

L E T-

L E T T E R LXXIIJ.

*To my ritb worchipfull and
good mastr Ser John Paston
Knyght.*

RYTH worchupful Ser afr^r dewe recomendacon plesyt zow
to und^rstond the cause of my wrytyng ys for a maryage
for my mast^rys Nargery zowr Sufr^r for my Nevyewe Iohn
Straunge wold make her fur of xl li. Joynt' and CC m'ke be
zer of inherytaunce and yf zee and zour frendes wole agreve
herto J trost to god y^t xall take a Conclusion to the plesur of
god And worchup to both p^rtyes moreou^r and yt plesyth zow to
wete J am sore troblyd w^t Bedston as wele be the wey of tache-
ments owte of the Chauncer as od^rwyse J must beseche zow of
zowr good mast^rshepe and help in secrete maner as the Ser
Thomas Lynes the brynger of thys shall enforme zow J xall be
att London in the begynn^yg of thys terme bethe g'ce of god
qwych p^rserue zowe Wretyn att Norwych in hast the Monday
afr^r Twelthe day.

By yowr

J. Strange.

12 by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

A Coronet.

Pl. xxvi. N^o 2.

In the propofals of marriage here preserved of this distant age, we find the care and attention paid by our ancestors to the endowment of the Lady; most propofals being accompanied with terms for that purpose.

L E T -

L E T T E R LXXII.

To my right worshipful and good Master, Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, after due recommendation, please it you to understand the cause of my writing is for a marriage for my Mistress Margery your Sister; for my Nephew John Straunge would make her sure of forty pounds jointure, and two hundred marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) by year of inheritance; and if ye and your friends will agree thereto, I trust to God it shall take a conclusion to the pleasure of God and worship to both parties.

Moreover, and it pleaseth you to weet, I am fore troubled with Bedston, as well by the way of attachment out of the Chancery as otherwise; I must beseech you of your good mastership and help in secret manner, as Sir Thomas Lynes the bringer of this shall inform you. I shall be at London in the beginning of this term by the grace of God, which preserve you. Written at Norwich, in haste, the Monday after Twelfth-day.

By your

J. STRANGE.

Norwich, January,
between 1466 and 1469.
6 and 9 E. IV.

The Stranges or L'Estranges here mentioned, were of the ancient and knightly family of L'Estrange, of Hunstanton in Norfolk.

The male line of this house ended with the late Sir Roger L'Estrange, Bart. the female branch survives in the families of Astley, of Melton, and Styleman, of Hunstanton, in Norfolk.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 23.

L E T-

LETTER LXXIII.

*To Iohn Paston**ye yonger be y^rs**deliuered in hast.*

I Grete you wele and send you godds blyffing and myn latyng you wete that sith ye dep'ted my Cofyn Calthorp sent me a lett^r Complayning in his wrytyng that for asmych as he can not be payd of his ten'nts as he hat be befor this tyme he p'posith to lesse his howshold and to leve the streytlyer wharfor he desir-eth me to p'uey for yo^r Sust^r Anne he seth she waxeth hygh and it wer tyme to p'vey her a mariage I marveyll what causeth hym to write so now outh^r she hath displeased hym or ell he hath takyn her w^t diffaught therfor I p'y you Comune w^t my Cofyn Clere at london and wete how he is dysposyd to her ward and send me word for I shall be fayn to send for her and w^t me she shall but lese her tyme and w^t ought she wull be the bett^r occupied she shall oftyn tymes meve me and put me in gret inquietenesse remembr what labo^r I had wt yo^r sust^r y'for do yo^r p'te to help her forth that may be to yo^r wurchiep and myn It remembr the bill y^t I spake to you of to gete of yo^r brother of such money as he hath receyvid of me sith yo^r faders disseas se yo^r vnkyll Mautby if ye may and send me Sume tydyngs as Sonee as ye may God kepe you Wretyn the Fryday next befor sent Thom's of Caunt'bury in hast.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6.By yo^r moder.

L E T

The date of this Letter from Margaret Paston does not appear, but it seems to have been written within a few years after her husband's death, though as the age of her Daughter Anne at her father's decease is not known, we cannot exactly ascertain it.— Anne was now grown tall, and becoming a woman. The endeavouring to educate
young

L E T T E R LXXIII.

To John Paston, the younger, be this delivered in haste.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that since ye departed my Cousin Calthorpe sent me a Letter complaining in his writing that for as much as he cannot be paid of his tenants as he hath been before this time, he proposeth to lessen his household, and to live the straitlier, wherefore he desireth me to purvey for your sister Anne, he saith she waxeth high (*grows tall*), and it were time to purvey her a marriage; I marvel what causeth him to write so now, either she hath displeased him or else he hath taken her with some default; therefore I pray you commune with my Cousin Clere at London, and weet how he is disposed to her ward, and send me word, for I shall be fain to send for her, and with me she shall but lose her time, and without she will be the better occupied she shall often times move me and put me in great inquietness; remember what labour I had with your sister, therefore do your part to help her forth, that may be to your worship and mine.

Item, remember the bill that I spake to you of to get of your Brother of such money as he hath received of me since your Father's decease; see your Uncle Maultby if ye may, and send me some tidings as soon as ye may; God keep you. Written the Friday next before Saint Thomas of Canterbury, in haste, (*29th of December*).

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Friday, December, between

1466 and 1470. 6 and 10 E. IV.

young women in the houses of their superiors, or of their friends and relations at a distance from home has been before noticed, (see Letter XXXV. Vol. I. p. 144.) and was certainly a very proper method of having them instructed. Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

VOL. IV.

P p

L E T-

LETTER LXXIII.

*To y^e right worchepfull
Sr Iohn Paston Knyght.*

RIGHT worchepfull Sr J recom' me to y^u like y^u wete a distresse was take in Castr by Thomas Pekok I trowe yo^r f'vant a besy man called of a full true sowle Iohn Hadynet of Haryngby a pore man his plow hath loyn eu^r sith he seith J und'stonde it is for catts landes J sent my Clerk to my Mastresse yo^r Moder and y^e seid Iohn w^t h^y y'for and my Mastresse wold h^y Come ageyn a noy^r day for Pecok was not yanne at home so he ded and can not have it as he seith but y^t ye wold J shuld speke w^t y^u at Castr y'of and of oy^r Mat's he tolde me yis day and by cause of my Moders yereday holden yis day god have hir sowle and to morwe shal be a good day J wol by godd's g'ce dispose me to his m'cy ageyns Thrusday as I have vsed y'for J p'y y^u p'don my comyng in y^e weke aft^r Ester J entend to se y^u and my seid Mastresse c'teynly it is loong seth I fy hir me sem^t and if ye be not yanne at Castr I p'y y^u send me worde y^t I may Come soner to y^u to Comon w^t y^u in yis mat^r and in all oy^r what ye wil and sone dep'te to london fro yens and y'for J wil abide w^t y^u a good while Sr as to Catts ye be remēbred what I

I have printed this Letter as shewing not only the friendly and just disposition of the writer, evident from the advice which he gives Sir John Paston, but to shew the duty and respect of children then continued annually to the memory of their deceased Parents.

The Year-day or Anniversary of any person's death was called the Obit; and to observe such day with Prayers and Alms, or other commemoration, was called keeping the Obit.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

To the right worshipful Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, like you (to) weet a distrefs was taken in Caister, by Thomas Peacock, I trow your servant, a busy man called, of a full true soul, John Hadynet, of Heringfby, a poor man, his plough hath lain ever since, he saith; I understand it is for Catt's land, I sent my clerk to my mistrefs your mother, and the said John with him therefore; and my mistrefs would him come again another day, for Peacock was not then at home; so he did, and cannot have it as he saith, but that ye would I should speak with you at Caister thereof, and of other matters he told me this day; and because of my mother's year-day holden this day, God have her soul; and to-morrow shall be a good day, I will by God's grace dispose me to his mercy against Thursday, as I have used, therefore I pray you pardon my coming; in the week after Easter, I intend to see you and my said mistrefs certainly; it is long since I saw her me seemeth, and if ye be not then at Caister, I pray you send me word that I may come sooner to you to commune with you in this matter, and in all other that ye will, and so depart to London from thence, and therefore I will abide with you a good while.

We find that Hugh Fenne strictly fulfilled this observance of filial duty to his deceased Mother.

The Device on his Seal is a flourishing Tree, having the initial letters of his names, one on each side; it alluded perhaps to his own happy and flourishing situation in respect to his fortune, family, and friends.

Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N^o 4.

feid to y^u at london at ij tymes I am y^e same man I have fith I cam geten yevidences in to m^y handes and I am redy to shewe yem what lerned man her y^e ye wol affigne y^e mater is cler to my thynkyng Titleshale y^t folde it to S^r. J Fastolf myght as wele a folde h^y yo^r lande or m^y and if y^e fale be lawfull I shal leve my hands at the first as I said at london y^e distresse to be kept for y^t I wisse it nede not and it was unlawfully taken like it y^u to do delyv^e y^e pore man his goods ageyn I am redy to answer y^u for elde and new as right wol. I shal breke no day to be assigned for to leve all oy^r thyngs.

By the bliffed lady I beleve y^t ye wol dispose y^u wele and so I p^y god ye do and have y^u in his bliffed gov^rnaunce.

Wr. at y^e hede town of Norff yis tuyfday.

Yo^r owen

H. atte ffenne.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
Rose and Crofs.
Pl. xxvi. N^o 1.

Seal, a flourishing Tree, with the
Letter H on one side and J on
the other. Pl. xiv. N^o 13.

LET

Sir, as to Catt's ye be remembered what I said to you at London at two times, I am the same man; I have since I came gotten the Evidences into my hands, and I am ready to shew them what learned man here that ye will assign, the matter is clear to my thinking. Titleshale that sold it to Sir John Fastolf might as well have sold him your land or mine; and if the sale be lawful, I shall leave my hands at the first as I said at London, the distress to be kept for that, I wish it need not, and it was unlawfully taken, like it you to do deliver the poor man his goods again, I am ready to answer you for old and new as right will, I shall break no day to be assigned for to leave all other things.

By the Blessed Lady I believe that ye will dispose you well, and so I pray God ye do, and have you in his blessed governance. Written at the head Town of Norfolk, this Tuesday.

Your own

HUGH at FENNE.

Norwich,

Tuesday, March or April,

between 1467 and 1469.

7 and 9 E. IV.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXII.

*To Sr Iohn Paston
Knyght be y^r deliured
in hast.*

I Grete you wele and fend you godds bliffyng and myn letyng you wete that Blykklyng of Heylesdon came fro london this weke and he is right mery and maketh his boft that w^r in this fourtynyght at Heylesdon shuld be bothe new lords and new officers and also this day was brought me word fro Caystr that Ryfyng of Freton shuld haue herd feid in diu^rse plac's ther as he was in Suff. that Fastolf of Conghawe maketh all the strenght that he may and p'posith hym to assaught Caystr and to entre ther if he may in samych that it is seyde that he hath a v score men redy and fendyth dayly aspies to und'stand what felesshep kepe the place be whos power or favo^r or supportacon that he wull do this I knowe not but ye wote wele that I haue ben affrayd ther befor this tyme whan that I had other Comfort than I haue now and I can not wele gide ner rewle sodyo^s and also thei set not be a woman as thei shuld set be a man. Therfor I wold ye shuld fend home yo^r brothers or ell Dawbenye to haue a rewle and to takyn in such men as wer necessary for the faffe-

The exact date of this Letter is not easily determined, not is it of any consequence, it only shews that one of the family of Fastolf, of Suffolk, pretended a claim to Caister, and intended coming to assert that claim with a large fellowship; whether this was Thomas Fastolf, the son of the Lady who had some time before applied to J. Paston for his assistance towards regaining the livelihood of her Son, out of the hands of those who had the wardship of him, does not appear.

gard

L E T T E R LXXV.

To Sir John Paston, Knight, be this delivered in haste.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that Blickling of Heylesdon came from London this week, and he is right merry, and maketh his boast that within this fortnight at Heylesdon should be both new Lords and new officers; and also this day was brought me word from Caister, that Ryfing of Fretton should have heard said in divers places there, as he was in Suffolk, that Fastolf of Conghawe maketh all the strength that he may, and proposeth him to assault Caister, and to enter there if he may, insomuch that it is said that he hath a five score men ready, and sendeth daily spies to understand what fellowship keep the place; by whose power, or favour, or supportation, that he will do this, I know not, but ye wot well that I have been affrayed (*frightened*) there before this time, when that I had other comfort than I have now; and I cannot well guide nor rule soldiers, and also they set not by a woman as they should set by a man, therefore I would ye should send home your Brother or else Dawbeny to have a rule, and to take in such men as were necessary for the safe-guard of the

I have ventured to fix the date of this Letter to 1468, as it most probably was written about that time.

Relic Sunday, is the Sunday fortnight after Midsummer-day.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

place,

gard of the place. For if J wer ther w'tought I had the mor
fadder or wurchepfull p'sones abought me. And ther comyn a
meny of Knavys and p'vaylled in ther entent it shuld be to me
but a vylney. And I haue ben abought my liffelode to set a
rewle ther in as I haue wretyn to you which is not yet all
p'fo'med aft' myn desyre and I wuld not goo to Caystr till I had
don J wull no mor days make ther abowtyn if I may therfor in
any wyse send fume body home to kepe the place and whan that
J haue do and p'fo'med that J haue be gunne I shall p'pose me
thed'ward if J shuld do ther any good and ell J had leu' be thens.
J have sent to Nicholas and such as kepe the place that thei
shuld takyn in fume feles to assiste and strenghten them till ye send
hame sū other word or fume other man to gou'ne them y' ben
therin &c. J marvayll gretly that ye send me no word how that
ye do for yo' elmyse begynne to wax right bold and that puttith
yo' frends bothyn in grete fere and dought therfor p'vey that
thei may have fume Comfort y' thei be no more discoraged For
if we lese o' frends it shall hard in this troubelous werd to kete
them ageyn The bliffid Trynyte spede you in yo' mater and
send you the victory of yo' elmyse to you' herts eas and
ther Confusyon Wretyn at Norwich the Sat'day next befor
Relyke Sonday in hast J p'y you remembre wele the maters
y' J wrote to you for in the letter y' ye had be James Gre-
sh'm's

place, for if I were there without I had the more fadder (*graver*) or worshipful persons about me, and there come a many of knaves, and prevailed in their intent, it should be to me but a villany; and I have been about my livelihood to set a rule therein, as I have written to you, which is not yet all performed after mine desire, and I would not go to Caister till I had done; I will no more days make thereabout if I may, therefore in any wise send some body home to keep the place, and when that I have done and performed that I have begun, I shall purpose me thither-ward, if I should do there any good, and else I had lever (*rather*) be thence.

I have sent to Nicholas, and such as keep the place, that they should take in some fellows to assist and strength them, till ye send home some other word, or some other man to govern them that be therein, &c.

I marvel greatly that ye send me no word how that ye do, for your elmyse (*enemies*) begin to wax right bold, and that putteth your friends both in great fear and doubt, therefore purvey that they may have some comfort, that they be no more discouraged, for if we lose our friends it shall (*be*) hard in this troublesome world to get them again.

The blessed Trinity speed you in your matters, and send you the victory of your enemies, to your heart's ease and their confusion.

Written at Norwich, the Saturday next before Relick Sunday, in haste.

I pray you remember well the matter that I wrote to you for

ih'm's man and fend me an answer ther of be y^e next man y^e
Comyth, &c.

Be yor mod^r

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{4}$.
Paper Mark,
A Snake.
Pl. XXVII. N^o 10.

M. P.

LETTER LXXV.

*To my moste honorabyl
lord ¹ Cadenall and Archibushop
of Caunt'bury.*

MOSTE Reu^ent and my ryght good lord J Recomau^d
me to your gracyous lordshyp yn my moste humble wyse
please your lordshyp to wete that my lord Norff. counsell hath
now late mevyd S^r Wyll'm Yeluton knyght and me to be p^rfer-
ryd for to purchasse the maner of Castre and certeyn other lord-
shypps that wer my maystyr Fastolf whom god pardon owt
excepted the maner of gūton that yowr lordshyp desyryth to
purchasse. And othyr certeyn maners that my mastyr Fastolf
frendys hafe desyred to be p^rferryd. And be cause the p^rtens
bargayn that John ² Paston yn hys lyffe surmytted bye colour of

On the back of this Letter is the following Memorandum.

"Sir T. Howys agreith to sell the manno^r of Caister to the Duke of Norff. and movith
thereto my Lord Cardenall."

It was in consequence of this agreement with Sir Thomas Howys, one of the Executors
of Sir John Fastolf, that the Duke of Norfolk I suppose claimed the Manor and Castle
of Caister, and in pursuit of that claim undertook to besiege it, in the manner explained
in the following Letters.

which

in the Letter that ye had by James Gresham's man, and send me an answer thereof by the next man that cometh, &c.

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Saturday,
9th of July,
1468. 8 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

To my most honourable ¹ Lord Cardinal, and Archbishop of Canterbury.

MOST reverend and my right good Lord, I recommend me to your gracious Lordship in my most humble wise; please your Lordship to weet that my Lord (*of*) Norfolk's Counsel hath now late moved Sir William Yelverton, Knight, and me to be proffered for to purchase the Manor of Caister, and certain other Lordships that were my Master Fastolf's, whom God pardon! out excepted the Manor of Gunton that your Lordship desireth to purchase, and other certain Manors that my Master Fastolf's friends have desired to be proffered; and because the pretens (*pretended*) bargain that John ² Paston in his life-time furmited (*surmised*) by colour of which he intended to have all

¹ Thomas Bouchier, Bishop of Ely, was translated to Canterbury in 1454. He died an old man, in 1486.

² What Sir Thomas Howys says of J. Paston must be believed with caution, as they had disagreed concerning the executorship of Sir John Fastolf's Will.

which he entended to haue all my mastyr Fastolf londes in Norff and Suff. for nought sauynge the hygh reuerence of your astate was not iuste ne trew. And be cause that J wyth othyr of my mast^r Fastolf executors may haue wher of to dyspospose yn cheryte full dedys to do for hys sowle J haue condescended the rather that my seide lord of Norff. shall be p^rferryd to the purchasse of the seyde maner of Castre. And othyr maners that may be sparyd to thencresse of hys lyfelode yn thys land and thys covenntys to be engroced upp wythynne shorth tyme as by all Halow- aunce in case yowr lordshyp be agreed and plesyd wyth all wher uppon J wold besече yowr nobyll lordshyp to lete me wete your good ples^r and avice yn thys behalfe. And be cause my seyde lord Norff. ys to nere of blode to yowr hyghnesse knyghted that meevyd me to be the more wyllyng to Condescend to the forseyd purchasse and so trustyng your lordshyp wold be ryght well pleased wyth alle. Wretyn at Norwich the x day of Octo- byr. A^o viij R E iiij^{ti}.

Yowr pore
Chapleyn

³ T. Holwys.

12 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 6.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. XI. N^o 10.

³ Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 16.

LET

my Master Fastolf's lands in Norfolk and Suffolk for nought, saving the high reverence of your estate, was not just nor true; and because that I with other of my Master Fastolf's Executors may have whereof to dispose in charityful deeds to do for his soul; I have condescended, the rather that my said Lord of Norfolk shall be preferred to the purchase of the said Manor of Caister, and other Manors that may be spared to the increase of his livelihood in this land, and these covenants to be engrossed up within short time as by Halowaunce (*Hallomas*, 1 November), in case your Lordship be agreed and pleased withall, whereupon I would beseech your noble Lordship to let me weet your good pleasure and advice in this behalf.

And because my said Lord (*of*) Norfolk is so near of blood to your highness knitted, that moved me to be the more willing to condescend to the foresaid purchase, and so trusting your Lordship would be right well pleased withall. Written at Norwich, the 10th day of October, in the 8th year of the reign of Edward IV.

Your poor Chaplain

3 THOMAS HOWYS.

Norwich, Monday,

10th of October, 1468. 8 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXIII.

*To my ryght welbelouyd brother
John Paston esqer beyng at Cast' or
to John Dawbeney y^{re} be this lett'
d'd.*

RYGH^T welbelouyd brother J comand me to yow letyng yow wete y^t I haue wagyd for to helpe yow and Dawbeney to kepe y^e place at Castr iij wel assuryd and trew men to do al man^r of thyng what y^t they be desyryd to do in faue gard or enforcyng of y^e seyde place and mor ouyr they be prouyd men and connyng in the werr and in fetys of armys and they kan wele schote bothe gonnys and crossebowes and amende and stryngge them and devyse bolwerkys or any thyngs that scholde be a strenkthe to y^e place and they wol as nede is kepe wecche and warde they be sadde and wel advysed men sauyng on of yem whyche is ballyd and callyd Wyll'm Peny whyche is as goode a man as gothe on the erthe sauyng a lytyll he wol as I understand be a lytel copschotyn but yit he is no brawler but ful of cortesyie meche uppon Jam^s Halman the other iij be named Peryn Sale John Chapman Rob't Iakys Son sauyng y^t as yit they haue non harneyse Comyn but when it komyth it schall be sent to yow and in the meane whyle I pray yow and Dawbeney to p'uey them some also a cople of beddys they most nedys have whyche I pray yow by the help of my modre to p'uey for them tyl y^t I Com home to yow ye schall fynde them gentylmanly

L E T T E R LXXVII.

To my right well-beloved Brother, John Paston, Esquire, being at Caister, or to John Dawbeney there, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT well-beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet that I have waged for to help you and Dawbeney to keep the place at Caister, four well assured and true men to do all manner of thing what that they be desired to do in safe-guard, or inforcing (*strengthening*) of the said place; and moreover they be proved men, and cunning (*expert*) in the war, and in feats of arms, and they can well shoot both Guns and Crossbows, and amend and string them, and devise bulwarks, or any things that should be a strength to the place, and they will as need is, keep watch and ward, they be sad (*serious*) and well advised men, saving one of them, which is balled (*bald*), and called William Peny, which is as good a man as goeth on the earth, saving a little, he will, as I understand, be a little copshotyn (*high crested*), but yet he is no brawler, but full of courtesy, much upon (*much like*) James Halman; the other three be named Peryn Sale, John Chapman, Robert Jack's Son (*Jackson*), saving that as yet they have none harness come, but when it cometh it shall be sent to you, and in the mean while I pray you and Dawbeney to purvey them some.

Also, a couple of beds they must needs have, which I pray you by the help of my Mother to purvey for them, till that I come home to you; ye shall find them gentlemanly, comfortable fellows,

Comfortable felawes and that they wol and dare abyde be ther takelyng and if ye undrestond y^t any assawte schold be towardys I sende yow thes men becawse y^t men of y^e contre ther about yow scholde be frayed for fer of losse of ther goods wherfor if ther wer any fuche thyng towards J wolde ye take of men of the contre but few and that they wer well assuryd men for ellys they myght discorage alle the remenant and affor any wryghtyng fro the Kyng he hathe promysyd y^t y^e schall come non ¹ and if ther do his unwarys yowr answer may be thys how the Kyng hathe seyde and so to delay them tyll J may haue worde and I schall sone p^uey a remedy. J understond y^t ye haue ben w^t my lorde of Norfolke now of late what ze haue don I wete not we se y^t he shal be her ageyn thys daye. Mor ouyr I trow Iohn Alforde schall not longe abyde w^t my lorde J schall sende yow tydyng of other thyngys in haste w^t the grace of god who &c. wretyn on Wednyfday nexte befor Seynt Martyn.

⁴ John Paston.

I fer y^t Dawbeney is not alther best storyd to Contenew howfold longe lete hym send me worde in hast and J wyll releve hym to my power and or longe to I hope to be w^t yow.

R'ger Ree is scheryff of Norfolke and he schall be good jnow the xchet' J am not yit apertaynyd of.

This Letter informs us of the preparations for the defence of Caister, and gives us a very minute account of the several merits of the four warlike men sent down to be useful when it should be attacked.

¹ I do not understand this sentence, perhaps it means, "unless they take him unexpectedly."

Also

fellows, and that they will and dare abide by their taking, and if ye understand that any assault should be towards, I send you these men, because that men of the country there about you should be frayed (*frightened*) for fear of loss of their goods; wherefore if there were any such thing towards, I would ye took of men of the country but few, and that they were well assured men, for else they might discourage all the remanent.

And as for any writing from the King, he hath promised that there shall come none, ¹ and if there do his unwarys (*with his privy*), your answer may be this, how the King hath said, and so to delay them till I may have word, and I shall soon purvey a remedy.

I understand that ye have been with my Lord of Norfolk now of late, what ye have done I wot not; we say that he shall be here again this day. Moreover, I trow John Alford shall not long abide with my Lord; I shall send you tidings of other things in haste, with the grace of God, who, &c. Written on Wednesday next before Saint Martin.

⁴ JOHN PASTON.

I fear that Dawbeney is not all there (*altogether*) best stored to continue household long; let him send me word in haste, and I will relieve him to my power, and ere long too I hope to be with you.

Roger Ree is Sheriff of Norfolk, and he shall be good enough. The Escheator I am not yet ascertained of.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

The Original Letter is written upon a whole sheet of paper, of which a quarter was cut away before the Letter was finished, so that the bottom part of it is only half the width of the upper.

Also y^t thes men be at y^e begynnyng entretyd as corteysly as ye can.

Also J pray yow to sende me my ² flowr be y^e next massanger y^t comyth.

Also as for my lorde Fytz Wat' oblygacion J know non fuche in myn adward as yit.

Also y^e obligacion of the bisshop of Norwychys oblygacion J neu^r fye it y^t J remēbre wherfor J wolde and prey my modre to loke it up.

Also as for the ³ byble y^t the Mast^r hath I wend the utt^rmost pryse had not passyd v m^rrk and so I trowe he wyl geue it wet J pray yow.

Also as for fyr Wyll'm Barber and fyr Wyll'm Falyate I wolde if they kan p^uey for them selfe folfayne be dyschargyd of them.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N^o 1.

² This may mean Flour for household use ; or it may signify his Flower, his device or cognizance.

Also, that these men be at the beginning entreated as courteously as ye can.

Also, I pray you to send me my ² Flower by the next messenger that cometh.

Also, as for my Lord Fitzwalter's obligation I know none such in mine adward as yet.

Also, the obligation of the Bishop of Norwich's obligation, I never saw it that I remember, wherefore I would, and pray my Mother to look it up.

Also, as for the ³ Bible that the Master hath, I wend the utmost price had not past five Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and so I trow he will give it, weet I pray you.

Also, as for Sir William Barber and Sir William Falgate, I would, if they can purvey for themselves, full fain be discharged of them.

London,

Wednesday, 9th November,

1468. 8 E. IV.

³ This must mean some MS. Copy, for at this time there was only one printed Edition of the Bible, which would have sold even then for a much greater sum than is here mentioned.

I mean, "Biblia Latina. Mogunt. per J. Fust and P. Schoiffer 1462."

LETTER LXXVJJ.

*To myght' well belouyd
 Brother Iohn Paston or to
 John Dawbeney in his absence.*

RYGH T worschypful and well belouyd brother J comand me to yow letyng yow wete y^t S^r Thom's Howes hadde a free Chapell in Castr wher of y^e gyfte longyth to me whyche Chapell as I understande scholde be in the olde tyme er the place at Castr wer bylte w^t in the motte wherfor J ame but the bett^r pleased and soo it is now y^t at the speciall request of the qwen and other especiall good lordes of myn I haue geuyn it to y^e berer her of Callyd mast^r John Yotton a Chapleyn of y^e qwenys neu^rthelle in tyme passyd J p^rposyd that J mast^r of the Colegg scholde haue hadd it and so er longe to J hope he schall wherfor J thynke he most take possession and that is the Cawse of hys Comyng wherfor I pray yow make hym good Cher he is informyd that it scholde be worthe C^s be yer whyche I belyue not J thynke it der jnow xl^s by yeer he most haue it as it was hadde befor. It'm thys daye I understonde that ther be comen lett'is

At a time when his keeping possession of Caister was doubtful, it was a stroke of policy in Sir John Paston to gain the good will of the Queen, by presenting her Chaplain to the free Chapel at Caister, though his intention had been to have united it to the mastership of his College there, and this he does not now despair of accomplishing, as it was probable that the Queen's Chaplain, would soon have such preferment as would induce him to resign this!

The difference of opinion between the parson who was to receive the money, and him who was to pay it, is a curious anecdote, and the cautious determination of Sir John likewise is worthy observation, that this Priest "must have it as it was hadde befor."

from

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

To my well-beloved Brother, John Paston, or to John Dawson, in his absence.

RIGHT worshipful and well-beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet that Sir Thomas Howes had a free Chapel in Caister, whereof the gift belongeth to me, which Chapel as I understand should be in the old time, ere the place at Caister were built, within the moat, wherefore I am but the better pleased; and so it is now that at the special request of the Queen and other especial good Lords of mine, I have given it to the bearer hereof called Master John Yotton, a Chaplain of the Queen's; nevertheless in time past I purposed that the Master of the College should have had it, and so ere long to, I hope he shall, wherefore I think he must take possession, and that is the cause of his coming; wherefore I pray you make him good cheer; he is informed that it should be worth an hundred shillings by year, which I believe not; I think it dear enough (*at*) forty shillings by year; he must have it as it was had before.

Item, this day I understand that there be come Letters from

The following Entry is taken from the Institution Books of the Bishop of Norwich.

" Cantaria in Cayster-hall."

" Lib. xi. p. 170. 21 Mar. 1468. Mr. Iohēs Yetton S. T. P. ad col. Epī pr lapsf."

By which it appears that Sir John Paston's presentation either was not allowed, or was not made out in time, and that the Bishop presented by a lapse.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9. Seal, a Fleur de Lys in the centre, surrounded by nine others. Pl. xiv. N° 23.

my

from my moder and yow and Dawbeney wherin J schall sende yow answer when J haue seyn them No mor at y^{is} tyme for wⁱⁿ this iiij dayes J shall lette yow haue Kneleche of other mat^{rs} Wretyn the xviiij day of Marche. Whether he nedyth indoccion or institucion or non J wot not if it nede brother ye may seale any suche thyng as well as J mast^r Steuyn kan tell all suche thynges.

John Paston, It.

12 by 7.

Paper Mark,

A Ring.

Pl. xxii. N^o 17.

LETTER LXXII.

*To the Baly
of Marwteby.*

MAYSTER Baly I recomaunde me on to yow Praynge yow that ye woll sende me be Wyll^m Hokkys berer her of iiij nobylles in golde putt in to the same boxe that thys byll is in as thow it were euydens for I haue tolde the masengere that he schulde brynge me nothyng but euydens for he is in a manere dep^ttyng owt of my f^uyse wherfore J wold nott he knew so myche of my counsell and as for the remenaunte I wellde ze schulde kepe it tyll I come my selfe And if bayard be onsolde

my Mother and you, and Dawbeney, wherein I shall send you answer when I have seen them.

No more at this time, for within this three days I shall let you have knowledge of other matters.

Written the 17th day of March.

Whither he needeth induction, or institution, or none, I wot not; if it need, brother ye may seal any such thing as well as I. Master Stephen can tell all such things.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,

Friday, 17th of March,

1468. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

To the Bailiff of Mawteby.

MASTER Bailiff I recommend me unto you, praying you that ye will send me by William Cocks bearer hereof, four Nobles in gold, put into the same box that this bill is in, as though it were evidence, for I have told the messenger that he should bring me nothing but evidence, for he is in a manner departing out of my service, wherefore I would not he know so much of my counsel, and as for the remanent I would ye should keep it till I come myself.

And

onfolde I pray yow late hym be made fatte ageyns the Kynge
Come in to the contre what so eu^r I pay for the kepyng of hym
and I schall wete how goode a corser I schall be my selfe at my
comyng in to the Contre be the grace of god who haue yow in
kepyng Wretyn at Henyngh'm.

Be yo^r

Wyllm Paston.

12 by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The curiosity of this Letter consists in the cautions given by W. Paston to the Bailiff for the safe and secret conveyance of the money, and in his attention to the good keeping of his horse Bayard.

LETTER LXXX.

To Sr John Paston.

I Grete you wele and send you godds bliffyng and myn thank-
yng you for my seall that ye sent me but I am right sory that
ye dede so grete cost y' up on for on of xl^d shuld haue f^rued me
right wele, send me ward what it cost you and J shall send you
money therfor J send you a lett^r be a man of Yarmoth send me
word if ye haue it for I marveyll ye sent me non answer ther of
be Juddy J haue non very knowleche of yo^r ensuraunce but if
ye be ensured J p'y god send you Joy and wurchep to ged^r and so
J trost

And if Bayard be unfold, I pray you let him be made fat against the King come into the country, whatsoever I pay for the keeping of him, and I shall weet how good a courser I shall be myself, at my coming into the country, by the grace of God, who have you in keeping. Written at Heveningham.

By your

WILLIAM PASTON.

Heveningham, Suffolk,

Perhaps 1469. 9 E IV.

William Paston was Brother to John Paston, and Uncle to Sir John, and probably wrote this Letter in the reign of Edward IV. Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 21.

Edward IV. was in Norfolk in 1469, and again in 1474.

L E T T E R LXXX.

To Sir John Paston.

I Greet you well, and fend you God's blessing and mine, thanking you for my Seal that ye sent me, but I am right sorry that ye did so great cost thereupon, for one of forty pence should have served me right well; fend me word what it cost you, and I shall fend you money therefore; I sent you a Letter by a man of Yarmouth, fend me word if ye have it, for I marvel ye sent me none answer thereof by Juddy.

I have none very (*certain or true*) knowledge of your insurance (*engagement*), but if ye be insured, I pray God fend you joy and

VOL. IV.

S s

worship

J troist ye shull haue if it be as it is reported of ^r her and a nempes god ye arn as gretly bownd to her as ye were maried and y^rfor I charge you up on my bliffyng that ye be as trew to her as she wer maried on to you in all degrees and ye shall haue the mor g^rce and the bett^r spede in all other thyngs. Also J wuld y^t ye shuld not be to hasty to be maried till ye wer more fuer of yo^r lyuelode for ye must remembr what charge ye shall haue and if ye haue not to mayntene it it wull be a gret rebuke and therfor labo^r that ye may haue releses of the londs and be in more fuerte of yo^r lond or than ye be maried The Duchesse of ^r Suff. is at Ewhelm in Oxford Shir and it is thought be yo^r frends her that it is do y^t she myght be ferr and ought of the wey and y^e rather feyne excuse be cause of age or fikenesse and if y^t the kyng wuld fend for her for yo^r maters yo^r elmyse be as bold her as thei wer befor wherfor J can not thynk but that thei haue fume Comfort J sent to Cayst^r that thei shuld be war in kepyng of y^e place as ye dede wright to me hast you to spede your maters as spedily ye can that ye may haue lesse felesshep at Cayst^r for the expencs and costs be grete and ye haue no nede y^{of} and ye remembre you wele what chargs ye haue beside and how yo^r liffelode is dispoyled and wasted by yo^r adu^rsaries also J wuld ye shuld

The reader cannot help being interested in the family scenes here laid before him; the pleasure his Mother expresses at her Son's engagement, and the good and prudent advice she gives him relative to his marriage, shews her anxiety for his future happiness.

The desire which she has to have her Daughter (Margery I suppose) introduced into the family of some noble Lady, shews her concern for her education, at the same time that it hints at their not being comfortable together.

The handsome character given of Sir John Paston, by my Lord Scales, and repeated to him by his Mother, shews her satisfaction at hearing so good a report of him.

worship together, and so I trust ye shall have, if it be as it is reported of ¹ her; and anemps (*before*) God, ye are as greatly bound to her, as (*if*) ye were married, and therefore I charge you upon my blessing, that ye be as true to her as (*if*) she were married unto you in all degrees, and ye shall have the more grace and the better speed in all other things.

Also, I would that ye should not be too hasty to be married till ye were sure of your livelihood, for ye must remember what charge ye shall have, and if ye have not to maintain it, it will be a great rebuke; and therefore labour that ye may have releases of the lands, and be in more surety of your land, or than (*before*) ye be married.

The Duchefs of ² Suffolk is at Ewelme, in Oxfordshire, and it is thought by your friends here, that it is done, that she might be far and out of the way, and the rather feign excuse because of age or sickness, if that the King would send for her for your matters.

Your enemies be as bold here as they were before, wherefore I cannot think but that they have some comfort; I sent to Caister that they should beware in keeping of the place, as ye did write to me; haste you to speed your matters as speedily as ye can, that ye may have less fellowship at Caister, for the expences and costs be great, and ye have no need thereof; and ye remember you well what charges ye have beside, and how your livelihood is dispoiled and wasted by your adversaries.

¹ Who the Lady is, does not appear in this Letter, but it most probably meant Anne Hault.

² Alice, widow of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, was the daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, Esq. of Ewelme, and grand-daughter of our famous Poet, Geoffry Chaucer.

p^rvey for yo^r ³ Suft^r to be w^t my lady of ⁴ Oxford or w^t my lady of
⁵ Bedford or in fume other wurchepfull place wher as ye thynk
 beft and J wull help to her fyndyng for we be eyther of us
 werye of other. J fhall telle you more whan I fpeke w^t you J
 p^ry you do yo^r devyr her in as ye wull my Comfort and wele-
 far and yo^r wurchep for diu^rfe caufes which ye fhall und^rftand
 aft^rward &c. J fpake w^t the lord Skales at Norwich and thanked
 hym for the good lordfhep that he had fhewed to you and de-
 fired his lordfhep to be yo^r contynuall good lord and he fwore
 be his tought he wold do that he myght do for you and he told
 me that Yelu^rton the Iuftice had fpoke to hym in yo^r maters but
 he told me not what' but J trow and ye desired hym to telle you
 he wuld ye ar be holdyng to my lord of his good report of you
 in this Contre for he reported bett^r of you than J trow ye def^rue.
 J felt be hym that ther hath be p^rfered hym large p^rferes on
 yo^r adu^rfaries p^rte ageyn you. Send me word as haftly as ye
 may aft^r the begynnyng of the t^rme how ye haue fped in all yo^r
 maters for I fhall thynk right long till J her fume good tidyngs
 Jt' I p^ry you recomaund me to the good ⁶ Mayft^r that ye gaffe
 to the Chapell' of Cayft^r and thank hym for the gret Coft that
 he dede on me at Norwych and if J wer a grette lady he fhuld
 und^rftand that he fhuld far the bett^r for me for me femyth be his

³ This was moft probably Margery Pafton, with whom the whole family were, very
 foon after the writing of this Letter, fo much difpleafed for having without their confent
 contracted herfelf in marriage to Richard Calle.

⁴ Elizabeth, the Daughter of Sir John Howard, Knight, and widow of John de Vere,
 Earl of Oxford, who was beheaded in 1461-2.

demenyng

Also I would ye should purvey for your ³ Sister to be with my Lady of ⁴ Oxford, or with my Lady of ⁵ Bedford, or in some other worshipful place, whereas ye think best, and I will help to her finding, for we be either of us weary of other; I shall tell you more when I speak with you; I pray you do your devyr (*endeavour*) herein, as ye will my comfort and welfare, and your worship, for divers causes which ye shall understand afterward, &c.

I spake with the Lord Scales at Norwich, and thanked him for the good Lordship that he had shewed to you, and desired his Lordship to be your continual good Lord; and he swore by his troth he would do that he might do for you, and he told me that Yelverton the Justice had spoken to him in your matter, but he told me not what; but I trow, and (*if*) ye desired him to tell you, he would. Ye are beholden to my Lord of his good report of you in this country, for he reported better of you than I trow ye deserve. I felt by him that there hath been proffered him large proffers on your adversaries part again you.

Send me word as hastily as ye may after the beginning of the term, how ye have sped in all your matters, for I shall think right long till I hear some good tidings.

Item, I pray you recommend me to the good ⁶ Master that ye gave to the Chapel of Caister, and thank him for the great cost that he did on me at Norwich; and if I were a great Lady he should understand that he should fare the better for

⁵ Jaqueline, Daughter of Peter, of Luxenburgh, Earl of St. Paul, the widow of John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, was at this time the wife of Richard Widville, Earl Rivers, by whom she was the Mother of Anthony Widville, Lord Scales, the nobleman mentioned in this Letter; she died in 1472.

⁶ Dr. John Yotton, to whom Sir John Paston had given the Chapel of Caister in 1468.

demenyng he shuld be right a good man Jt' I send you the
 7 nowche w^t the Dyamaunch be the berer herof.

I pray yow forgate not to send me a ⁸ kerfche of Cr'melle for
 nekkerchys for y^r fyft'. Anne for I ā schente of y^e good lady y^r
 fche is w^t be cawse fche hathe non and I cā non gette ī alle thys
 towne I xuld wrythe mor to yow but for lakke of leyser God
 have yow ī hys kepyng and send yow good spede ī alle y^r maters
 wryt ī haste on Eestern mūday.

Be y^r mod^r

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁷ An Ouch is a collar of gold, formerly worn by women; a gold button, set with some jewel, is likewise so called, and that most probably was the ornament here mentioned to be sent to Sir John by his Mother; we may suppose it was intended as a present to his betrothed Bride.

⁸ A Kerfche of Cr'melle, perhaps means a kerchief of Cremell, crewel or worsted, to be made into neck-handkerchiefs for her Daughter Anne, who appears to have been for education and board with some Lady of consequence.

LETTER LXXX.

*To master syr
 Iohn Paston.*

SYR I pray yow recomand me to my lord Scalys good lord-
 shep and to let hym weet y^t in lyek wyse as hys lordshap
 gaue me in comandemēt J haue enqweryd what y^e gentyllmanys
 answer

me, for me seemeth by his demeaning he should be right a good man.

Item, I send you the touch with the diamond, by the bearer hereof. I pray you forget not to send me a kerfche of Cr'melle, for neckerchiefs for your sifter Anne, for I am schent (*blamed*) of the good Lady the she is with, because she hath none, and I can none get in all this town.

I should write more to you but for lack of leifure; God have you in his keeping, and send you good speed in all your matters. Written in haste, on Easter Monday.

By your Mother

9 MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Monday,
3d of April, 1469.
9 E. IV.

9 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

On the back of this Letter is this Note.

"The L. Scales is now frend to Sr J. Paston," which implies that he had not always been so.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

To Master Sir John Paston.

SIR, I pray you recommend me to my Lord Scales's good lordship, and to let him weet, that, in like wise as his lordship gave me in commandment, I have enquired what the gentleman's

answer was that my lord of Norff. sent to to awayte up on hym at the k̄ygs Com̄g in tothys Contre. hys answer was to my lord of Norfolk's messenger that he had promysyd my lord Scalys to awayte up on hym at the fame feson and in as myche as he had promysyd my lord Scalys he wold not false hys promesse for no man on lyue J fond the menys that the feyd gentylemanys wyfe mevyd hyr husbend w^t the fame mater as thow she had axyd hym of hyr awne hed and he told hyr that he had geuyn thys answer thys gentylman is S^r W. ¹ Calthorp but I pray yow tell my lord Scalys that ye undyrstand not who it is for he preyid me to be secret ther in. J pray w^t all my hart hye yow hom in haft for we th̄yk longe tyll ye coome And I pray yow send me woord whedyr ye shall be mad a ² crysten man or ye Com home or nowt And if so be y^t ye send eny man hom hastely J pray yow send me an ³ hat and a bonet by y^e fame man and let hym br̄yg the hat upon hys hid for mysfacyon̄g of it J haue ned to bothe for I may not ryd nor goo owt at y^e doorys w^t non y^e I haue they be so lewde a murry bonet and a blak or a tawny hat and god send yow yo^r desyr Wretyn at Cast^r the viij day of Apryll.

Yo^r⁴ J. Paston.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Edward IV. came into Norfolk in the Spring of the year, in 1469. We see the desire which noblemen had to be honourably attended on such occasions, and the interest they employed to procure a respectable retinue when they came to meet their sovereign. John Paston in this case applied to the Lady to find out her Husband's intentions, and it appears that his application was successful.

¹ Sir William Calthorpe, Knight, had been High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, both in this and the preceding reiga, and died very old in 1494. His second wife was Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Miles Stapleton, Knight, of Ingham.

L E C.

man's answer was that my Lord of Norfolk sent to await upon him at the King's coming into this country ; his answer was to my Lord of Norfolk's messenger, that he had promised my Lord Scales to await upon him at the same season, and in as much as he had promised my Lord Scales, he would not false his promise for no man on live (*alive*). I found the means that the said gentleman's wife moved her Husband with the same matter as though she had asked him of her own head, and he told her that he had given this answer ; this gentleman is Sir William ¹ Calthorpe, but I pray you tell my Lord Scales that ye understand not who it is, for he prayed me to be secret therein.

I pray with all my heart hie you home in haste, for we think long till ye come ; and I pray you send me word whether ye shall be made a ² Christian man ere ye come home or not ; and if so be that ye send any man home hastily, I pray you send me an ³ Hat and a Bonnet by the same man, and let him bring the hat upon his head for (*fear of*) misfashioning of it ; I have need to both, for I may not ride nor go out at the doors with none that I have, they be so lewd (*shabby*), a murrey bonnet, and a black or a tawny hat, and God send you your desire ; written at Caister, the 7th day of April.

Your

⁴ JOHN PASTON.

Caister, Friday, 7th of April,
1469. 9 E. IV.

² If this mean that Sir John Paston was now to be christened it appears somewhat extraordinary, and what else it can mean I know not, unless we may infer from this expression an entrance into some religious society.

³ We have here a proof of the early introduction of hats ; and J. Paston's care that his might not be put out of shape, is worthy a beau of the present age.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 12.

LETTER LXXXIII.

Jhs.

WYRSHYPPFULL and my ryght gode frend J comaund me to you And where as J am enformed that my lorde of Norff p'tendeth title to ferteyn londys of S' John Pastons whych were late of S' John Fastolf it is sayd that by the Comaundement and supportacyon of my sayd lord fertayn hys f'unts felleth wode maketh grete wast and destrayned the ten'nts of the feyd lands to the grete damage of the feyd Sr Iohn Paston and hys sayd ten'nts And also that my sayd lord entendyth to entre fertayn places of the same And for asmoch as maryage ys fully concluded by twyx the feyd Sr Iohn Paston and on of my nerrest kynneswomen J dout not that your reason wele Conceyueth that nature must Compelle me the rather to shewe my gode wylle assystens and favo^r unto the feyd Sr Iohn in such thyngs as concerne hys enheryt'ns and because J am on of my said lordys Councayll and must and will tendre hys hono^r J hertely p'y you that it may lyke you to adv^rtyse and avyse my sayd lord and yourys that all such entres fellyng of wode destraynyngs of ten'nts and all such maters lyke touchyng the sayd londes or any part of them be cessyd unto such tyme as a resonabell meane may be founde by my sayd lords counsayll my lord my faders and other coufyns and frendes of my feyd kynneswoman thys next terme as may be to my sayd lordys hono^r and to the sauyng of the ryght tytle of the feyd Sr John Paston

Ou^r

L E T T E R LXXXII.

IHS.

WORSHIPFUL and my right good Friend, I commend me to you, and whereas I am informed that my Lord of Norfolk pretendeth title to certain lands of Sir John Paston's which were late of Sir John Fastolf, it is said that by the commandment and supportation of my said Lord, certain his servants felleth wood, maketh great waste, and distrained the tenants of the said lands, to the great damage of the said Sir John Paston and his said tenants; and also that my said Lord intendeth to enter certain places of the same; and for as much as marriage is fully concluded betwixt the said Sir John Paston and one of my nearest kinswomen, I doubt not that your reason well conceiveth, that nature must compel me the rather to shew my good will, assistance, and favour unto the said Sir John in such things as concern his inheritance; and because I am one of my said Lord's counsel, and must and will tender his honour; I heartily pray you that it may like you to advertise and advise my said Lord and yours, that all such entries, felling of wood, distraining of tenants, and all such matters like, touching the said lands or any part of them, be ceased unto such time as a reasonable mean may be found by my said Lord's counsel, my Lord my father's and other cousins and friends of my said kinswoman this next term, as may be to my said Lord's honour, and to the saving of the right title of the said Sir John Paston.

T t 2

Over

Ou^r thys I p'y you that ye wille enfo^rme my gode frend Iames Hobard of the p'myffes that he may advertyse my feyd lord in lyke wyse and that ye will yeve credens unto William Paston and J shal be welwilled to do that may be to your plesur w^t godds mercy. ffro Westmynstre the x day of Apryll.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

RYGH^T trusty and welbelouyd I grete you well and for asmo^{ch} as a maryage ys fully concluded bytwyx S^r John Paston and my ryght nere kynneswoman Hawte J will that ye and all other my f'unts and ten'nts understand that my lord my Fader and I must of nature and reason shewe unto hym our gode assystens and favo^r in such maters as he shal haue a doo wherfor J p'y you hertely that ye will take the labo^r to come to Norwych to comen w^t William Paston and to yeve credens unto hym in such maters as he shal enfo^rme you of myne entent and of ser-

A copy of this and the foregoing Letter are written upon the same piece of paper, but without signature or address. The following memorandum on the back of the paper however ascertains both.

“Copea Litērz Dñi de Scales ad conciliū Dñc Norff & alijs (*alios*) in favore
“J. Paston mil. eò quod maritaret Cognatā suam Annā Hawte.”

The contents of these Letters sufficiently ascertain the advantages arising from forming connections with families of consequence; no sooner was an alliance proposed, but both the Father and Son take Sir John Paston and his affairs under their protection; the Duke of Norfolk's counsel, (of which Lord Scales was one), were immediately to take care that no further injuries were to be committed upon his property, and the servants and dependants of these powerful noblemen are to do all in their power to give him every assistance.

tayn

Over this I pray you that ye will inform my good friend James Hobart of the premisses, that he may advertise my said Lord in like wise ; and that ye will give credence unto William Paston, and I shall be well willed to do that may be to your pleasure, with God's mercy.

From Westminster, the 10th day of April.

SCALES.

Westminster,
Monday, 10th of April.
1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

RIGHT trusty and well-beloved, I greet you well, and for as much as a marriage is fully concluded betwixt Sir John Paston and my right near kinswoman Anne Hawte, I will that ye and all other my servants and tenants understand that my Lord, my father, and I must of nature and reason shew unto him our good assistance and favour, in such matters as he shall have a do ; wherefore I pray you heartily that ye will take the labour to come to Norwich, to commune with William Paston, and to give credence unto him in such matters as he shall inform you of my intent, and of certain persons with whom ye shall commune

This marriage never took effect, and the manner in which this affair is several times mentioned in the Ist and IId Volumes of this work, serves only to involve it in mystery.

It appears here that the Lady's connections were great, and that she must have been nearly related to the Queen.

These Letters being only copies, I have it not in my power to present the reader with a fac simile of Lord Scales's hand-writing. The paper and hand-writing are both of the time that the Letters were written, and it is probable that these were either transcribed immediately from the Originals, or were those copies from which the Originals themselves were taken.

by

tayn p^rsones w^t whom ye shall Comen by th' auyse of the seyd
Will Paston of such maters as touch the sayd S^r Iohn Paston
prayng you to tendre thys mater as ye wolde do myne owne ffro
Westmynstre the x day of Aprill.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

L E T T E R LXXXII.

*To my brother
Iohn Paston.*

RYGH^T worschypful and verrely welbelouyd brother I
hertely comande me to yow thankyng yow of yowr labor
and dyligence that ye haue in kepyng of my place at Castr so
fewerly both w^t yowr hert and mynde to yowr gret bisynesse and
troble and I ageyn warde haue hadde so lytell leyser that I haue
not spedde bot fewe of yowr erendys ner cannot befor thys
tyme asfor my lady boleynes dysposicion to yow werds I cannot
in no wyse fynde hyr a greable y^t ye scholde haue her dowter
for all the preuy meanes y^t I kowde make info moche I hadde
so lytell Comfor by all the meanes y^t I kowde make y^t I dys-
deyned in myn own prson so Comon w^t hyr ther in Neu^rthelesse
I vndrestande y^t sche seythe what if he and sche kan agre I wyll
not lette it but I will neu^r advyse hyr therto in no wyse and
uppon tewesday last past sche rood hom in to Norfolke Wher-
for as ye thynke ye may fynde the meane to speke w^t hyr yowr
felfe

by the advice of the said William Paston, of such matters as touch the said Sir John Paston, praying you to tender this matter as ye would do mine own. From Westminster, the 10th day of April.

SCALES.

Westminster,
Monday, 10th of April,
1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

To my Brother, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful and verily well-beloved Brother, I heartily commend me to you, thanking you of your labour and diligence that ye have in keeping of my place at Caister, so surely both with your heart and mind, to your great business and trouble; and I againward have had so little leisure that I have not sped but few of your errands, nor cannot before this time.

As for my Lady Boleyn's disposition to you ward, I cannot in no wise find her agreeable that ye should have her daughter, for all the privy means that I could make, insomuch I had so little comfort by all the means that I could make, that I disdained in mine own person to commune with her therein; nevertheless I understand that she sayeth, "what if he and she can agree I will not let it, but I will never advise her thereto in no wise." And upon Tuesday last past she rode home into Norfolk; wherefore as ye think ye may find the mean to speak with her yourself,

felfe for w^t owt that in myn Conceyt it wyl not be And as for Croffeby I undreftand not y^t y['] is no maryage Concluded between them neu^rtheleffe ther is gret langage y^t it is lyke to be ye be p^rfonable and p^rauēt' yowr beyng ones in the fyght of y^e mayde and a lytele defcuv' yngof yo^r good wyl to hyr byndyng hyr to kepe it fecret and y^t ye kam fynde in yowr hert w^t fom cōfort of hyr to fynde the meane to brynge fuche a mat^r abow^t as fchall be hyr pleaf^r and yowrs but that thys ye kannot do w^t owt fom cōfort of hyr in no wyfe and ber yor felfe as lowly to y^e moder as ye lyft but to y^e mayde not to lowly ner that ye be to gladde to fpede ner to fory to fayle and J alweys fchall be your herault bothe her if fche com hydd^r and at home when J kome hom whych I hope haftly w^t in xl dayes at y^e feith' my modre hathe a lett^r whych can tell yow mor and ye may lat Dawbeney fe it.

John Pafton, kt.

J fuppose and ye kall
welle upon R Calle he
fchall p^ruey yow mony
I haue wretyn to hym Jnow.

This Letter muft have been written in 1469, as the thanks to his Brother here given by Sir John Pafton, related to his proper and spirited conduct at Caifter Place.

His attention to whose fuccefs in his marriage with the daughter of Lady Boleyn, fhews his good nature, and his brotherly regard for him; and the advice which he gives him, refpecting his behaviour both to the Lady and her daughter, fhews Sir John to be a man who not only knew the world, but likewise one who underftood the paffions and prejudices of individuals.

He feemed to think too that a handsome young man could not fail of pleading his own caufe fuccefsfully with a young Lady.

L E T

self, for without that in mine conceit it will not be ; and as for Crosby, I understand not that there is no marriage concluded between them, nevertheless there is great language that it is like to be ; ye be personable, and peradventure your being once in the sight of the maid, and a little discovering of your good will to her, binding her to keep it secret, and that ye can find in your heart with some comfort to her, to find the mean to bring such a matter about, as shall be her pleasure and yours, but that this ye cannot do without some comfort of her in no wise ; and bear yourself as lowly to the Mother as ye list, but to the maid not too lowly, nor that ye be too glad to speed, nor too sorry to fail ; and I always shall be your herald both here, if she come hither, and at home, when I come home, which I hope hastily, within forty days at the farthest ; my Mother hath a Letter which can tell you more, and ye may let Daubeney see it.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

I suppose and (*if*) ye call well upon R. Calle he shall purvey you money, I have written to him enough.

London, April,
1469. 9 E. IV.

Sir Godfrey, or Sir Jeffery Boleyn, was Lord Mayor of London, about 1457 or 1458. He died in 1463, leaving Anne, the daughter of Thomas Lord Hoo and Hastings, his widow, by whom he had three daughters, Isabel, Anne, and Alice, the last of these was the Lady to whom J. Paston wished to pay his addresses, and who afterwards married Sir John Fortescue, knight. The elder married William Cheyney, Esq. and the other became the wife of Sir Henry Heydon, of Baconsthorp, knight, and all were great Aunts to Queen Anna Boleyn, the Mother of our Sovereign Elizabeth.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

S YR plefyth yow to weet y^t my modyr and I comonyd y^{is} day w^t freyr mowght to undyrftand what hys feyīg ſhall be in the Coort when he Comyth up to london wheche is in y^{is} wyſe he ſey^t at ſyche tyme as he had ¹ ſhreuyñ maſter Brakley and howſyllyd hym bothe he let hym wet that he was enformyd by dyu's perſonys that the ſeyd maſter Brakley owt for to be in gret conſyens for ſyche thyngys as he had doone and ſeyd and cauſyd my Fadyr whom god aſoyle for to do and ſeye alſo in prouīg of S^r Iohn Faſtolfys wyll to whom the ſeyd maſtyr Brakley anſwerd thus agayne. I am ryght glad that it Comyth to yow in mynd for to meue me w^t thys mater in dyschargyng of my conſyens ayenſt god ſeyīg ferther mor to the ſeyd freyr mowght bethe wey y^t hys ſowle ſhold to that the wyll y^t my fadyr put into the Coort was as v^ryly Syr Iohn Faſtolfys wyll as it was trew that he ſhold onys deye. thys was ſeyd on the Sonday when y^e ſeyd Brakley wend to haue deyid then on the Monday he reuyuyd a yen and was well amendyd tyll on the Wednyſday and on the Wednyſday he ſekyn'd a yen ſuppoſyng to haue dyeyd forthe w^t And in hys ſyknes he callyd freyr Mowght whyche was Confeſſor

This curious Letter furniſhes us with the ſolemn declarations of a ſick man on his death-bed, relative to the authenticity of the Will of Sir John Faſtolf, which was proved by John Paſton, and which was reported not to have been the real Will of that Knight.

The Paſtons had many long and expenſive ſuits at law on this account, which were not finiſhed either in the life-time of John Paſton, or in that of his Son Sir John Paſton.

Therſe

L E T T E R LXXXV.

John Paston, to his Brother Sir John Paston.

SIR, please it you to weet that my Mother and I communed this day with Friar Mowght, to understand what his saying shall be in the court when he cometh up to London, which is in this wise: he say that at such time as he had ¹shriven Master Brackley, and howselled him both, he let him weet that he was informed by divers persons, that the said Master Brackley ought for to be in great conscience for such things as he had done and said, and caused my Father, whom God assoil! for to do and say, also in proving of Sir John Fastolf's Will; to whom the said Master Brackley answered thus again; "I am right glad that it cometh to you in mind for to move me with this matter in discharging of my conscience against God;" saying furthermore to the said Friar Mowght, by the way that his soul should to, that the Will that my Father put into the court was as verily Sir John Fastolf's Will, as it was true that he should once die. This was said on the Sunday when the said Brackley wend (*thought*) to have died then; on the Monday he revived again, and was well amended till on the Wednesday, and on the Wednesday he sickened again, supposing to have died forthwith, and in his sickness he called Friar Mowght, which was confessor unto him,

These solemn assertions of a priest, and a man of learning and character, thus conscientiously declared, must have had great weight in clearing the character of J. Paston from these foul aspersions, especially as they came from so respectable a man as Friar Mowth or Mowght, who was a Brother of consequence in the Monastery at Norwich. (See Letter XII. Vol. I. p. 256, 259.)

¹ The meaning of this is, after he had heard his confession, and administered the extreme Sacrament to Master Brackley.

fessor on to hym of hys owne mofyon seyg on to hym in thys wyfe Syr wher as of yo^r owne mofyon ye meuyd me the last day to tell you aftyr my confyens of S^r John Fastolfys wyll lyek wyfe as I knew and now of myn owne mocyon and in dischargyng of my fowle for I know well y^t I may not askape but y^t I must dye in haft Wharfor I desyr you that wyll report aftyr my dethe y^t I took it upon my fowle at my dyng y^t that wyll y^t Iohn Paston put into be prouyd was fyr Iohn Fastolfys wyll and the feyd brakley dyid the fame Wednesdaye and wher as ye wold haue had Rychard Calle to yow as on Sonday last past it was thys twyfsday or I had yo^r lettyr and wher as it plesyth yow for to wyshe me at Eltam at the ² Tornay for the good fyth y^t was ther by trowththe J had leuer se yow onys in Cast^r halle then to se as many kyngs tornay as myght be betwyx eltam and london And fyr whar as it lyekyth yow to desyir to haue knowlage how y^t I haue don w^t y^e lady ³ boleyne by my feythe I haue don nor spokyn nowght in y^t mater nor not wyll do tyll tyme y^t ye com hom and ye Com not thys vij yer not w^tstandyng y^e lady boleyne was in Norwyche in the week aftyr Eftren fro the Saturday tyll the Wednyfsday and Heydons wyfe and maistras Alys bothe and I was at Cast^r and wyft not of it. hyr men feyd y^t she had non othyr erend to the Towne but for to sport hyr bot so

² Sir John Paston is said to have been the King's Champion at this Tournament at Eltham.

³ Anne, daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Hoo and Hastings, married Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, knight, Lord Mayor of London, whose widow she now was, and by whom she had several children. One of her daughters married Sir John Heydon, of Baconsthorpe, and Alice (another here mentioned) became afterwards the wife of Sir John Fortescue, knight.

god

of his own motion, faying unto him in this wise, "Sir, whereas of your own motion ye moved me the last day to tell you after my conscience of Sir John Fastolf's Will likewise as I knew; and now of mine own motion, and in discharging of my soul, for I know well that I may not escape, but that I must die in haste, wherefore I desire you that (*you*) will report after my death, that I took it upon my soul at my dying, that that will that John Paston put in to be proved was Sir John Fastolf's will;" and the said Brackley died the same Wednesday.

And whereas ye would have had Richard Calle to you as on Sunday last past, it was this Tuesday ere I had your Letter; and whereas it pleaseth you for to wish me at Eltham, at the^a Tournay, for the good fight that was there, by truth I have lever (*rather*) see you once in Caister-hall than to see asmany King's tourney as might be betwixt Eltham and London.

And, Sir, whereas it liketh you to desire to have knowledge how that I have done with the Lady³ Boleyn, by my faith I have done nor spoken nought in that matter, nor nought will do till time that ye come home, and (*if*) ye come not this seven year; notwithstanding the Lady Boleyn was in Norwich in the week after Easter, from the Saturday till the Wednesday, and Heydon's wife and Mistres Alice both, and I was at Caister, and wist not of it; her men said that she had none other errand to the Town but for to sport her, but so God help me, I suppose

This Lady Boleyn was great grandmother to Queen Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII. and the young Ladies her daughters, here introduced, were her great Aunts.

Some pedigrees mention Sir Geoffry to have had a second wife, who was the mother of these daughters, if so, the Lady Boleyn here mentioned must be her.

god help me J suppose y^t she wend I wold haue ben in Norwyche for to haue sen hyr dowghter J besече yow w^t all my hart hye yow hom thow ye shold tery but a day for I promyse yow yo^r folk thynk y^t ye haue forgetyn hem and the most part of them must depart at Whytfontyd at the ferthest they wyll no lenger abyd and as for R Calle we can not get half a q^rtr^r y^e mony y^t we pay for y^e bare housfold besyd menys wagys. Daube nor I may no mor w^t owt Coynage.

Yo^r

* J. Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.* Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 12.

L E T T E R LXXXVJ.

TO begyn God yeld yow for my hatys. the k̄yng hathe ben in this contre and worchepfully receyuyd in to Norwyche and had ryght good cher and gret gyftys in thys contre wherwythe he holdyth hym so well content that he wyll hastyly be her agayn and the qwen allso w^t whom by my power auyse ye shall com if so be that the terme be do by y^t tym y^t she com in to y^{is} contre And as for yowr maters her so god help me J haue don as myche as in me was in labor̄yng of theym as well to my lord

that she wend (*thought*) I would have been in Norwich for to have seen her daughter; I beseech you with all my heart hie you home, though ye should tarry but a day, for I promise you your folk think that ye have forgotten them, and the most part of them must depart at Whitsuntide at the furthest, they will no longer abide; and as for R. Calle we cannot get half a quarter the money that we pay for the bare household, beside men's wages. Daubeney nor I may no more without coinage.

Your

⁴ JOHN PASTON.

April, 1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

To Sir John Paston, Knight.

TO begin, God yeld (*shield, or preserve*) you for my hats.

The King hath been in this country, and worshipfully received into Norwich, and had right good cheer, and great gifts in this country, wherewith he holdeth him so well content that he will hastily be here again, and the Queen also, with whom by my poor advice ye shall come, if so be that the term be done by that time that she come into this country; and as for your matters here, so God help me, I have done as much as in me was,

lord ¹ Reuers as to my lord ² Scalys fyr Iohn Wydwyll Thom's Wyngfeld and othyr abowt the k̄yng And as for the lord Reuers he feyd to myn oncyll Will'm Fayrfax and me that he shold meue the k̄yng to spek to the two dukys of Norff. and Suff. that they shold leue of ther tytyls of fychelond as wer fyr Iohn Fastolfs and if so be y^t they wold do nowt at the kyngs request y^t then the k̄yng shold comand theym to do no wafts nor mak non affawtys nor frayis upon you^r ten'nts nor plasys tyll fychelond as the lawe hathe determynd w^t yow or ayenst yow y^{is} was feyd by hym the sam day in the morn̄yng that he depertyd at noon whedyr he meued the k̄yng w^t it or nowt J can not sey myn oncyll Wyll'm thynkys naye and the same aftyr none folow̄yng J told my lord Scalys that J had spokyn w^t my lord hys fadyr in lyek forme as J haue reherfyd and axyd hym whedyr that my lord hys fadyr had spokyn to the k̄yng or nowt and he gaue me thys answer that whedyr he had spokyn to the k̄yng or nowt y^t the mater shold do well jnow Thom's Wyngfeld told me and swore on to me that when brandon meuvyd the k̄yng and besowght hym to shew my lord fauour in hys maters ayenst yow that the

Kyng

As King Edward often made excursions, and by his insinuating manner and address conciliated the minds of his subjects, and induced them to bestow liberal gifts upon him, it cannot be certainly known whether this visit to Norwich was merely to raise money, or whether having intimations of the discontent of the Earl of Warwick, the King was endeavouring to make himself popular, the better to encounter and defeat any designs of that nobleman. His manner of travelling, his attendants, and the familiar conversations which are drawn in this Letter with ease and precision, interest the reader as well as delineate the manners of the times.

We find the Duke of Gloucester accompanied the King, but we hear nothing of the Duke of Clarence, he most probably was at this very instant with the Earl of Warwick, forming those plans which soon after for a time replaced Henry upon the throne.—Edward's conversation with William Paston was certainly very proper, and becoming a

King,

was, in labouring of them, as well to my Lord ¹ Rivers as to my Lord ² Scales, Sir John Wydville, Thomas Wingfield and others about the King ; and as for the Lord Rivers, he said to my Uncle William, Fairfax, and me, that he should move the King to speak to the two Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk, that they should leave of their titles of such land as were Sir John Fastolf's, and if so be that they would do nought at the King's request, that then the King should command them to do no waste, nor make none assaults nor frays upon your tenants nor places, till such time as the law hath determined with you or against you ; this was said by him the same day in the morning that he departed at noon ; whether he moved the King with it or not I cannot say, my Uncle William thinks nay ; and the same afternoon following I told my Lord Scales that I had spoken with my Lord his Father, in like form as I have rehearsed, and asked him whether that my Lord his Father had spoken to the King or not, and he gave me this answer, that whether he had spoken to the King or not, that the matter should do well enough.

Thomas Wingfield told me, and swore unto me, that when Brandon moved the King, and besought him to shew my Lord favour in his matters against you, that the King said unto him

King, desirous that justice should be done according to the law ; for what can shew this intention more strongly than the following words, " I will neither treat nor speak for him, but I will let the law proceed."

His conversation likewise with Brandon, was both manly and spirited.

¹ Richard Wydville, Earl Rivers, father to the Queen, was at this time Lord Treasurer. This nobleman and his eldest son Sir John Wydville, were in August following both beheaded at Northampton, by a riotous mob, headed by one Robert of Riddefdale.

² Anthony Wydville, Lord Scales, was second son to the Earl Rivers, and had been summoned to parliament in right of his wife, the daughter and rich heir of the late Lord Scales.

Kyng feyd on to hym ayen brandon thow thou can begyll the dwk of Norff and bryng hym abow the thombe as thow lyst J let the wet thow shalt not do me so for J undyrstand thy fals del̄yg well jnow And he feyd on to hym more ouer that if my lord of Norff. left not of hys hold of that mater that brandon shold repent itt eu'ry vayn in hys hert for he told hym that he knew well jnow that he myght reauyll my lord of Norff. as he wold and if my lord dyd eny th̄yg that wer Contrary to hys lawys the k̄yg told hym he knew well jnow that it was by no bodys menys but by hys and thus he depertyd fro the k̄yg Jt' as by wordys the lord Scalys and Sr John Wydwyll tok tendyr yo' maters mor then the lord Reuers It' Syr Iohn Wydvyll told me when he was on horsbak at the k̄ygs depert̄yg that the k̄yg had comandyd brandon of p'pose to ryd forthe fro Norwych to Lyne for to tak a Conclusyon in yo' mater for yow And he bad me y' J shold cast no dowghtys but y' ye shold haue yo' entent and so dyd the lord Scalys also and when y' J preyd them at eny tyme to shew ther fauor to yo' mater they answerd that it was ther mater as well as yo's consyder̄yg the ³ alyans betwyx yow. Comon w' Jakys Hawt and he shall tell yow what langage was spekyng betwen the duk of Suff Consell and hym and me it is to long to wryght but J promyse yow ye ar be held to Iakys for he sparyd not to spek Jt' the kyng rod thorow Heylysdon waren towads Walsf̄ygh'm and Thom's Wyngfeld promysyd me that he wold fynd the menys that my lord of ⁴ Glowsefyr and hym

³ This refers to the contract between Sir John Paston and Anne Hawte.

again, "Brandon, though thou canst beguile the Duke of Norfolk, and bring him about (*thy*) thumb as thou list, I let thee weet thou shalt not do me so; for I understand thy false dealing well enough." And he said unto him, moreover that if my Lord of Norfolk left not of his hold of that matter, that Brandon should repent it, every vein in his heart, for he told him that he knew well enough that he might rule my Lord of Norfolk as he would, and if my Lord did any thing that were contrary to his laws, the King told him he knew well enough that it was by nobody's means but by his, and thus he departed from the King.

Item, as by words, the Lord Scales and Sir John Wydville took tender your matters more than the Lord Rivers.

Item, Sir John Wydville told me, when he was on horseback at the King's departing, that the King had commanded Brandon of purpose to ride forth from Norwich to Lynn, for to take a conclusion in your matter for you; and he bad me that I should cast no doubts but that ye should have your intent, and so did the Lord Scales also; and when that I prayed them at any time to shew their favour to your matter, they answered that it was their matter as well as yours, considering the ³ alliance betwixt you.

Commune with Jakys Hawte, and he shall tell you what language was spoken between the Duke of Suffolk's counsel, and him, and me; it is too long to write, but I promise you ye are beholden to Jakys, for he spared not to speak.

Item, the King rode through Helleston Warren towards Walsingham, and Thomas Wingfield promised me that he would find the means that my Lord of ⁴ Gloucester and himself both

⁴ Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard III.

fylf bothe shold shew the k̄yng the ^s loge y^t was breke down and
 also y^t they wold tell hym of y^e brek̄yng down of y^e plase. Con-
 trary to thys maters and all the Comfort that J had of my lord
 Scalys Sr John Wydvyl and Thom's W̄ygfild myn oncyll
 Wyll'm fethe that y^e k̄yng told hym hys owne mowthe when he
 had redyn for by the loge in Heylysdon waren that he supposyd
 as well y^t it myght fall downe by the self as be plukyd downe
 for if it had be plukyd down he seyde y^t we myght haue put in
 ou^r byllys of it wehn hys jugys sat on the oyeer det^rmyner in
 Norwyche he bēyng ther And then myn oncyll seythe how that
 he answerd the k̄yng that ye trustyd to hys good grace that he
 shold set yow thorow w^t both y^e dwkys by mene of trete and he
 seythe y^t the k̄yng answerd hym that he wold neythyr tret nor
 speke for yow but for to let the lawe proced and so he seyth that
 they depertyd. And by my trowthe and my lord tresorer enco-
 rage you not more than he dyd us her ye shall haue but esy help
 as on y^t party Wherfor labor yo^r maters effectually for by my
 trowthe it is nedy for for all ther wordys of plesur J cannot un-
 dyrstand what ther labor in thys Contre hathe don good wherfor
 be not ouyr swyft tyll ye be swyr of yo^r lond but labor fore y^e
 lawe for by my trowthe tyll that be passyd w^t yow ye get but
 esy help as I can undyrstand J had w^t me on day at den^r in my
 modys plase she bēyng owt the lord scalys Sr John Wydvyl Sr
 John Haward Nicolas Haward Iohn of Parr Thom's Garnet
 festnx cheyny truffell y^e knyghts son Thom's boleyne q^ppter

^s For a full account of the mischief here done, see Letter LVIII. p. 226.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 21. Seal, a Fleur de Lys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N^o 22.

Brampton

should shew the King the ^s Lodge that was broken down, and also that they would tell him of the breaking down of the place. Contrary to these matters, and all the comfort that I had of my Lord Scales, Sir John Wydville, and Thomas Wingfield, my Uncle William saith, that the King told him (*with*) his own mouth, when he had ridden forth by the Lodge in Hellefdon Warren, that he supposed as well that it might fall down by the self, as be plucked down, for if it had been plucked down, he said that we might have put in our bills of it, when his Judges sat on the Oyer and Determiner in Norwich, he being there; and then my Uncle saith how that he answered the King, that ye trusted to his good grace that he should set you through with both the Dukes, by mean of treaty, and he saith that the King answered him that he would neither treat nor speak for you, but for to let the law proceed, and so he saith that they departed; and by my troth and (*if*) my Lord Treasurer encourage you not more than he did us here, ye shall have but easy help as on that party, wherefore labour your matters effectually, for by my troth it is needy for, for all their words of pleasure, I cannot understand what their labour in this country hath done good; wherefore be not over swift till ye be sure of your land, but labour fore the law, for by my troth till that be passed with you, ye get but easy help as I can understand.

I had with me one day at dinner in my Mother's place, she being out, the Lord Scales, Sir John Wydville, Sir John Howard, Nicholas Howard, John of Parr, Thomas Garnet, Festus Cheyney, Truffel, the Knight's Son, Thomas Boleyn, qua propter,

Brampton Barnard and Brom Perse howse W Tonstale Lewes Debretayll and othyr and mad hem good cher so as they held them Content. Jt'm my lord of Norff. gaue Bernard Broom nor me no gownys at thys seson Wherfor J awaytyd not on hym notwstandȳg J ofyrd my seruyse for y^r seson to my lady but it was refufyd I wot by auyse Wherfor I p'pose no more to do so as for Bernard Barney Broom and W Calthorp ar fworn my lord of Glowsetyrs men but J stand yet at large not wstandȳg my lord Scalys spok to me to be w^t the kȳg but J mad no p'mes so to be for J told hym y^t I was not woorthe a groote w'owt yow and therfor J wold mak no promes to nobody tyll they had yo^r good wyll fyrst and so we depertyd. It was told me y^t ther was owt a preve seall for yow to attend upon the kȳg Northeward and if it be so J thynk v^ryly it is do to haue yow fro London be craft y^t ye shold not labor y^{or} maters to a Conclufyon thys terme but put them delaye J pray yow p^rvey yow on it to be at hom as sone as the terme is doone for be god J take gret hurt for myn absence in dyuers plasys and the most part of yo^r men at Cast^r wyll deperte w'owt abod and ye be not at hom w'in thys fortnyght J pray yow bryng hom poynts and lasys of fylk for yow and me.

J. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17. A whole Sheet.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N^o 15.

L E T

(*in short*) Brampton, Bernard, and Brown, Perse Howse, W. Tonstal, Lewis de Bretayl, and others, and made them good cheer, so as they held them content.

Item, my Lord of Norfolk gave Bernard, Broom, nor me no gowns at this season, wherefore I awaited not on him, notwithstanding I offered my service for that season to my Lady, but it was refused, I wot by advice ; wherefore I purpose no more to do so. As for Bernard, Barney, Broom, and W. Calthorpe are sworn my Lord of Gloucester's men, but I stand yet at large, notwithstanding my Lord Scales spoke to me to be with the King, but I made no promise so to be, for I told him that I was not worth a groat without you, and therefore I would make no promise to nobody till they had your good will first, and so we departed.

It was told me that there was out a Privy Seal for you to attend upon the King northward ; and if it be so, I think verily it is done to have you from London by craft, that ye should not labour your matters to a conclusion this term, but put them (*in*) delay. I pray you purvey you on it, to be at home as soon as the term is done, for by God I take great hurt for mine absence in divers places, and the most part of your men at Caister will depart without abode, and (*if*) ye be not at home within this fortnight. I pray you bring home points and laces of filk for you and me.

JOHN PASTON.

1469. 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIII.

SYR plesyth it to undyrstand that J conceyue by yo^r lettyr whyche y^t ye sent me by Jwde y^t ye haue herd of R. C. labor whyche he makyth by ou^r ungracyous sustyrs assent but wher as they wryet that they haue my good wyll ther in sau^{ng} yo^r reu^{er}ence y^e falsly lye of it for they neuer spake to me of y^t mater ner non othyr body in ther name louell axyd me onys a qwestyon whedyr y^t I undyrstood how it was betwyx R C and my sustyr J can thynk y^t it was by Callys menys for when J axyd hym whedyr C desyird hym to meue me y^t qwestyon or not he wold haue gotyn it aweye by humys and by hays but I wold not so be answeyrd Wherfor at y^e lest he told me y^t hys oldest sone desyird hym to spere whedyr y^t R C wes swyr of hyr or nowt for he seyde y^t he knew a good maryage for hyr but J wot he lyeyd for he is hole w^t R Cale in y^t mater wherfor to y^e entent y^t he nor they sholl pyck no comfort of me J answerd hym y^t and my fadyr whom god asfoyle wer a lyue and had consentyd ther to and my modyr and ye bothe he shold neu^r haue

On the back of this Letter is written, "pro maritag. int^r Ricm Call & Marg^am Paston."

"A pleasaunt lre to Sir J. Paston, from his brother J. Paston, wherein the stoutness of Sir John is somewhat declared."

The stoutness, or rather family pride, both of Sir John Paston and his brother, are discovered in this Letter, in the behaviour of the one to the Duke of Norfolk, and in the disdain which the other shewed to the idea of his sister's marriage with a person in trade.

Richard Calle has been often mentioned in the course of these Letters, and he seems to have been a confidential friend of the family. This however seems in the opinion of J. Paston by no means to have been sufficient to have authorised his pretensions to become the husband of his sister.

my

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

To Sir John Paston, Knight.

SIR, pleaseth it to understand, that I conceive, by your Letter which that ye sent me by Jude, that ye have heard of Richard Calle's labour which he maketh by our ungracious sifter's assent, but whereas they write that they have my good will therein, saving your reverence, they falsly lie of it, for they never spake to me of that matter, nor none other body in their name. Lovell asked me once a question, whether that I understood how it was betwixt R^d Calle and my sifter; I can think that it was by Calle's means, for when I asked him whether Calle desired him to move me that question or not, he would have gotten it away by hums and by haas, but I would not so be answered; wherefore at the last he told me that his eldest son desired him to spere (*inquire*) whether that Richard Calle were sure of her or not, for he said that he knew a good marriage for her, but I wot he lied, for he is whole with Richard Calle in that matter; wherefore to that intent that he nor they should pick no comfort of me, I answered him, that and (*if*) my Father, whom God assoil! were alive, and had consented thereto, and my Mother, and ye both, he should never have my good will

We here see the origin of the Duke of Norfolk's claim to Caister to have arisen from his supposed purchase of it from two of Sir John Fastolf's Executors; this claim he pursued, and in a few months after the writing of this Letter, besieged the place in form, having been, I presume, refused a peaceable entry by John Paston, who defended it for his brother, and in which defence Dawbeney and others lost their lives.

The Letter is curious, and written in such an easy and familiar style as greatly to interest the reader in its contents.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 21.

my good wyll for to make my fustyr to felle kandyll and mustard in Framlȳgh'm and y^{us} wythe mor whyche wer to longe to wryet to you we dep^ttyd and wher as it plesythe you in yo^r lettyr to crye me mercy for y^t ye sent me not fyche ger as I sent yow mony for J crye yow mercy y^t I was so lewde to encomber yow w^t eny so sympyll a mater Confyderȳg the grette maters and weyghty y^t ye haue to doo but need Compellyd me for in thys Contre is no fyche stufte as I sent to yow for also wher as it plesyth yow to send to Rychard Calle to delyuer me monye so god help me J wyll non axe hym for my fylfe nor non had J of hym nor of non othyr man but of myne owne fyne ye depertyd but y^t lytyll y^t I myght forbere of myne owne I haue delyu^ryd to Dawbeney for howfold and pay it for yow in menys wagys and ther for who eu^r sendys yow word y^t I haue spent yow eny mony fyne ye went hens they must geue yow an othyr Rek-nȳg sauȳg in met and drynk for I eete lyek an horse of p'pose to eete yow owte at the dorys but y^t nedythe not for ye com not w^{'in} them wherfor so god help me the felaushep her thynkys y^t ye haue forgetyn us alle wherfor and eny thȳg be ille rewlyd when ye come home wyet it yo^r selfe for defawt of ou^rfyght. Also I undyrstand for v'ry seteyn and it is sent me so woord owt of my lordys howse that thys pentcoft is my lordys confell at Framlȳgh'm and they p'pose thys week and the next to hold Coortys her at Cast^r and at all othyr man^{'s} y^t wer S^r John F. and p'chasyd of Yelu^{'ton} and of fyr T. H. whom god asoyle and
how

for to make my Sister to sell candle and mustard in Framlingham, and thus, with more which were too long to write to you, we departed.

And whereas it pleaseth you in your Letter to cry me mercy, for that ye sent me not such geer as I sent you money for ; I cry you mercy that I was so lewd (*troublesome*) to encumber you with any so simple a matter, considering the great matters and weighty that ye have to do ; but need compelled me, for in this country is no such stuff as I sent to you for.

Also, whereas it pleaseth you to send to Richard Calle to deliver me money, so God help me, I will none ask him for myself, nor none had I of him, nor of none other man but of mine own since ye departed, but that little that I might forbear (*spare*) of mine own, I have delivered to Dawbeney for household, and paid it for you in men's wages, and therefore whoever sendeth you word that I have spent you any money since ye went hence, they must give you another reckoning, saving in meat and drink, for I eat like an horse, of purpose to eat you out at the doors, but that needeth not for you come not within them, wherefore, so God help me, the fellowship here thinks that ye have forgotten us all, wherefore and (*if*) any thing be ill ruled when ye come home wyet (*blame*) it yourself for default of oversight.

Also, I understand for very certain, and it is sent me so word out of my Lord's house, that this Pentecost (*Whitsuntide*) is my Lord's Counfel at Framlingham, and they purpose this week and the next to hold courts here at Caister, and at all other manors that were Sir John Fastolf's, purchased of Yelverton and of Sir Thomas Howys, whom God assoil, and how that my demeaning

how that my demenȳg sholbe it is to late to send to yow for
 auyse wherfor and J do well J axe no thank and if I do ille J
 pray yow leythe the defawt on our lytyll wyte but J p'pose to use
 the fyrst poynt of hawkȳg to hold fast and J maye but so god
 help me and they myght pulle downe y^e howse on our hedys J
 wyet hem not whyche J trust to god to help hem from For by
 god that bowght me the best Erle in Jnglond wold not dele so
 w^t my lord and my lady as ye do w^towt makȳg of some menys
 to them so god help me whoso eu^r auyse yow to do so he is not
 yo^r frend And I may J trust to God to se yow abowght Mydsom^r
 or befor. For in good feythe J wene ye p'pose yow y^t it shall be
 Eestern er ye Come hom for all yo' serv'nts her wen that ye p'pose
 ne more to dele w^t them but to leue hem her in ostage to my
 lord of Norfolk Also fyr J pray yow p'vey what Jne y^t my bro-
 dyr Edmund shall be in for he losythe fore hys tyme her J pro-
 myse yow J pray yow send me word by the next messenger y^e
 Comyth and I shall eythyr send hym or brȳg hym up w^t me to
 London.

Also Syr we pore sanz deners of Castr have brook iij or iiij
 stelle bowys wherfor we beseche yow and ther be eny maker of
 steele bowys in London whyche is v'ry kȳnȳg y^t ye wyll send
 me woord and I shall send yow the bowys y^t be broken, whyche
 be yo^r owne greet bowe and Roberd Jacksonys bowe and Iohn
 Pampȳgs bowe thes iij have kast so many calvys y^t they shall nev^r
 cast qwarellys tyll they be new mad I praye yow fynd the menys
 that

shall be, it is too late to fend to you for advice, wherefore, and (*if*) I do well I ask no thank, and if I do ill, I pray you lay the default on over little wit, but I purpose to use the first point of hawking, to hold fast and (*if*) I may ; but so God help me, and (*if*) they might pull down the house on our heads, I wyet (*blame*) them not, which I trust to God to keep them from ; for by God that bought me, the best Earl in England would not deal so with my Lord and my Lady as ye do, without making of some means to them, so God help me, whosoever advise you to do so, he is not your friend ; and I may, I trust to God to see you about Midsummer or before, for in good faith I ween ye purpose you that it shall be Easter ere ye come home, for all your servants here ween that ye purpose no more to deal with them, but to leave them here in hostage to my Lord of Norfolk.

Also, Sir, I pray you purvey what Inn that my brother Edmund shall be in, for he loseth fore his time here I promise you ; I pray you fend me word by the next messenger that cometh, and I shall either fend him or bring him up with me to London.

Also, Sir, we poor fans deniers (*moneyless men*) of Caister have broken three or four steel bows, wherefore we beseech you and there be any maker of steel-bows in London which is very cunning, that ye will fend me word, and I shall fend you the bows that be broken, which be your own great bow, and Robert Jackson's bow, and John Pamping's bow ; these three have cast so many calvys, that they shall never cast quarrels (*square-headed arrows*) till they be new made.

I pray

that my Lord have some resonable meane profyrd so y^t he and my lady may undyrstand that ye desyr to have hys good lordshap I promyse yow it shall do yow ease and yo^r teñuts bothe and God preserve.

I. P.

13 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 6.

LETTER LXXXIII.

MYN owne lady and mastres and be for god very trewe wyff I w^t herte full sorowefull recomaunde me unto you as he that can not be mery nor nought shalbe tyll it be otherwise w^t us then it is yet For thys lyf y^t we lede nough is nowther plesur to godde nor to the worlde Consederyng the gret bonde of matrymonye y^t is made be twix us and also the greete loue y^t hath be and as J truste yet is be twix us and as on my parte neu^r gretter wherfor J beseche almyghty godde Comfort us as sone as it plesyth hym for we y^t ought of very ryght to be moost to gether ar moost asondre me semyth it is a m^{ll} yerē a gooson y^t I speke w^t you J had leu^r thenne all the goode in the worlde J myght be w^t you alas alas goode lady full litell remembre they what they doo y^t kepe us thus asunder iiij tymes in the yere ar they a cursid that lette matrymonye it causith many men

I pray you find the means that my Lord may have some reasonable mean proffered, so that he and my Lady may understand that ye desire to have his good Lordship ; I promise you it shall do you ease and your tenants both, and God preserve (*you*).

JOHN PASTON.

Caister, Whitfuntide,

May, 1469. 9 E. IV.

Whitsunday was on the 21st May, in 1469.

L E T T E R LXXXVIII.

To Mistress Margery Paston.

MINE own Lady and Mistress, and, before God, very true wife, I with heart full sorrowful recommend me unto you, as he that cannot be merry, nor nought shall be till it be otherwise with us then it is yet, for this life that we lead now is neither pleasure to God nor to the world, considering the great bond of matrimony that is made betwixt us, and also the great love that hath been, and as I trust, yet is betwixt us, and as on my part never greater ; wherefore I beseech Almighty God comfort us as soon as it pleaseth him, for we that ought of very right to be most together, are most asunder, me seemeth it is a thousand year ago since that I spake with you, I had lever (*rather*) than all the good in the world I might be with you ; alas, alas ! good Lady, full little remember they what they do that keep us thus asunder, four times in the year are they accursed that let (*binder*) matrimony ; it causeth many men to deem

to deme in hem they haue large confyence in other maters as wele as herin but what lady suffre as ye haue do and make you as mery as ye can for I wys lady at the longe wey godde woll of hys ryght wyfnes helpe hys frunts that meane truly and wolde leue accordyng to hes lawys &c. J undrestende lady ye haue hadde asmoche forwe for me as any gentelwoman hath hadde in the worlde aswolde godd all that forwe y^t ye haue hadde had rested upon me so y^t ye hadde be discharged of it for J wis lady it is to me a deethe to her y^t ye be entreted other wise thene ye ought to be this is a peyneful lyfe y^t we lede J can not leue thus w^toute it be a gret displefure to godde Also like you to wete y^t I had sent you a lett^r be my ladde from london and he tolde me he myght not speeke w^tyou ther was made so gret awayte upon hym and upon you boōthe he told me Iohn Threfcher come to hym in yo^r name and seide y^t ye sent hym to my ladde for a letter or a token weche J shulde haue sent you but he trufte hym not he wold not delyu^r hym noon after that he brought hym a rynge seyng y^t ye sent it hym comaundyng hym y^t he schulde delyu^r the lett^r or token to hym weche J conceyue sethen be my ladde it was not be your sendyng it was be my mastres

On the back of this Letter is the following memorandum, "Lrā Rici Calle Margerie Pafton filie Johīs Pafton a'ri quā p'tea duxit in ux^{rem}."

We cannot read this Letter without entering into the private family-concerns of the Paftons, and however we may think with them that their daughter may have made without their knowledge and consent an improper contract, yet we must pity the lover. In ancient times families intermarried more amongst those of their own rank than at present; the Gentry considered those in trade as moving in a different sphere to them; they dealt with them and required their attendance, but they scorned to intermarry.

The

deem in them they have large conscience in other matters as well as herein, but what Lady suffer as ye have done, and make you as merry as ye can, for I wis, lady, at the long way, God will of his rightwiseness help his servants that mean truly, and would live according to his laws, &c.

I understand, Lady, ye have had as much sorrow for me as any Gentlewoman hath had in the world, as would God all that sorrow that ye have had had rested upon me and that ye had been discharged of it, for I wis, Lady, it is to me a death to hear that ye be entreated otherwise than ye ought to be; this is a painful life that we lead, I cannot live thus without it be a great displeasure to God.

Also like you to weet that I had sent you a Letter by my lad from London, and he told me he might not speak with you, there was made so great await upon him and upon you both; he told me John Thresher come to him in your name, and said that ye sent him to my lad for a Letter or a token, which I should have sent you, but he trust him not, he would not deliver him none; after that he brought him a ring, saying that ye sent it him, commanding him that he should deliver the Letter or token to him, which I conceive since by my lad it was not by your sending, it was by my Mistress and Sir James's advice;

The extension of commerce and the large fortunes raised by the merchants and men of business, have however broken down those barriers of distinction; and not only the Gentleman, but the Nobleman, now often select their wives from the city, and introduce into their families the daughters of those, who, by their honourable and extensive dealings in various branches of traffic, have enriched themselves, and trained up their children to become that elevated situation which their beauty, their education, and their good qualities, enables them to adorn.

The picture drawn in this Letter is a true one, and gives us a much better idea of antient family matters than the most laboured disquisition of a dry historian.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9. Seal. an Eagle's head erased, &c. Pl. xxiii. N° 8.

maftres and S^r Jamys a vys Alas what meane they J fuppose they deeme we be not enfuryd to gether and if they fo doo J merveyll for thene they ar not wele avifed remembryng the pleynes y^t I breke to my maftres at the begynnyng and I fuppose be you bothe and ye dede as ye ought to do of very ryght and if ye haue do the Contrare as J haue be enformed ye haue do ye dede nouthur Concyenfly nor to the plesure of godde w^oute ye dede it for feere and for the tyme to please fuche as were at that tyme a boutte you and if ye fo dede it for this f^ruice it was a refonable caufe Confederyng the grete and importable callyng upon y^t ye hadde and many an on trewe tale was made to you of me weche god know^t J was neu^r gylty of my ladde tolde me y^t my maftres your modre axyd hym if he hadde brought any lett^r to you and many other thyngs fhe bare hym on hande and a monge all other at the laft fhe feide to hym that J wolde not make her p^rvy to the begynnyng but fche fupposyd J wolde at the endyng and as to that god know^t fche knewe furst of me and non other J wott not what her maftrefchip meneth for be my trowthe ther is no gentylwoman on lyue that my herte tendreth more then it dothe her nor is lother to difplese fauyng only your p^rfon weche of very ryght I ought to tendre and loue beft for I am bounde therto be the lawe of godde And fo wol do whyle y^t I leue what fo eu^r falle of it J fuppose And ye telle hem fadly the trouthe they wold not dampne ther foules for us though I telle hem the trouthe they woll not be leue me as weele as they woll do you And ther

Alas, what mean they? I suppose they deem we be not ensured together, and if they so do I marvel, for then they are not well advised remembering the plainness that I brake to my Mistress at the beginning, and I suppose by you both, and ye did as ye ought to do of very right, and if ye have done the contrary, as I have been informed ye have done, ye did neither concienfly (*conscientiously*) nor to the pleasure of God, without ye did it for fear, and for the time to please such as were at that time about you; and if ye did it for this cause it was a reasonable cause, considering the great and importable calling upon that ye had, and many an untrue tale was made to you of me, which, God know it, I was never guilty of.

My Lad told me that my Mistress your mother asked him, if he had brought any Letter to you, and many other things she bare him on hand, and among all other at the last she said to him that I would not make her privy to the beginning, but she supposed I would at the ending; and as to that, God know it, she knew it first of me and none other, I wot not what her mistressship meaneth, for by my troth there is no gentlewoman alive that my heart tendereth more than it doth her, nor is loather to displease, saving only your person, which of very right I ought to tender and love best, for I am bound thereto by the law of God, and so will do while that I live, whatsoever fall of it; I suppose and (*if*) ye tell them sadly (*seriously*) the truth, they will not damn their souls for us; though I tell them the truth they will not believe me as well as they will do you, and therefore,

for goode lady at the reu'ence of godde be pleyne to hem and telle the trouthe and if they woll in no wise agree therto betwix God the deelf and them be it and that perell y^t we schuld be in J beseche godde it may lye upon them and not upon us J am heuy and fory to remembre ther disposicon god sende them grace to gyde all thyngs weele as wele J wolde they dede godde be ther gide and sende them peas and reste &c. J mervell moche y^t they schulde take this mater so heedely as J undrestonde they doo remembryng it is in suche case as it can not be remedyed and my desert upou eu^ry be halfe it is for to be thought ther shulde be non obstacle a yens^t it And also the worchipfull y^t is in them is not in your mariage it is in ther owne mariage weche I beseche godde sende hem suche as may be to ther worschip and plesur to godde and to ther herts ease for ell were it gret pety mastres J am aferde to write to you for I undrestonde ye haue schewyd my lett's y^t J haue sent you be for this tyme but J prey you lete no creatur se this lett^r as sone as ye haue redde it lete it be brent for I wolde no man schulde se it in no wise ye had no wrytyng from me this ij yere nor J wolde not sende you no mor therfor J remytte all this matre to your wysdom Almyghty Jhu preferue kepe and you your hertys desire weche I wotte weele schulde be to goods plesur &c. Thys lett^r was wreten w^t as greete peyne as eu^r wrote j thyng in my lyfe for in goode feyth I haue be ryght seke and yet am not veryly weele at ease god amend it &c.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 16 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark.

YHS. within a radiated Star of 16 points.

Pl. VIII. N^o 5.

LET

good Lady, at the reverence of God be plain to them and tell the truth, and if they will in no wise agree thereto, betwixt God, the Devil, and them be it, and that peril that we should be in, I beseech God it may lie upon them and not upon us ; I am heavy and sorry to remember their disposition, God send them grace to guide all things well, as well (*as*) I would they did ; God be their guide and send them peace and rest, &c.

I marvel much that they should take this matter so heedely (*cautiously*) as I understand they do, remembering it is in such case as it cannot be remedied, and my desert upon every behalf it is for to be thought there should be none obstacle against it ; and also the worshipful that is in them, is not in your marriage, it is in their own marriage, which I beseech God send them such as may be to their worship and pleasure to God and to their hearts ease, for else were it great pity. Mistress I am afraid to write to you for I understand ye have shewed my Letters that I have sent you before this time ; but I pray you let no creature see this Letter, as soon as ye have read it let it be burnt, for I would no man should see it in no wise, ye had no writing from me this two year, nor I will not send you no more, therefore I remit all this matter to your wisdom ; Almighty Jesu preserve, keep, and (*give*) you your heart's desire, which I wot well should be to God's pleasure, &c.

This Letter was written with as great pain as ever wrote I thing in my life, for in good faith I have been right sick, and yet am not verily at ease, God amend it, &c.

RICHARD CALLE.

1469. 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIX.

I Grete zow wel and send zow godds blyffing and m̃y letyng
 zow wete y^t on Thuryfday laſt was my mod^r and I wer w^t
 my lord of ¹ Norwych and deſyerd h̃y y^t he woold no mor do
 in y^e mater towſcheyng zow^r fyſt^r tyl y^t ze and my brother and
 other y^t wern executors to zow^r fad^r mythe beyn her to ged^r for
 they had y^e rule of her as weel as I and he ſayde playnly y^t he
 had be requeryd ſo oft̃y for to exameyn her y^t he mythe not nor
 woold no longar delay yt and ſchargyd me in peyn of Curſyng y^t
 ſche ſchuld not be deferred but y^e ſhe xuld a per befor h̃y y^t
 nexte day and J ſayd pleynly y^t J woold nowd^r bryng her nor
 ſend her and yⁿ he ſayd y^t he woold ſend for her h̃y ſylfe and
 ſchargyd y^t ſhe ſchuld be at her lyberte to cūe wā he ſent for her
 and he ſeyd be hys trowthe y^t he woold be as ſory for her and
 ſche ded not welle as he wold be and ſche wer ryth ner of hys
 kyn bothe for my mod ys ſake and myn and other of her frendds
 for he woof welle y^t her demenyng had ſtekyd ſoor at ou^r harts
 my mod^r and J in formyd h̃y y^t we kowd neu^r ond^r ſtond be her
 ſayyng be no language y^t eu^r ſche had to h̃y y^t neyther of hē
 wer bownd to other but y^t they myth ſcheſe bothe yⁿ he ſeyd y^t
 he

We find by the converſation here given us between the Biſhop of Norwich, Agnes Paſton, and Margaret Paſton, that a contract of marriage had been made between Margery Paſton, the daughter of the latter, and Richard Calle, and that her family wiſhed to have a hearing in the Biſhop's court, either to diſprove it, or, if proved, to ſet it aſide. The young Lady's behaviour, and the account which both ſhe and Richard Calle give of the contract ſeem to confirm it, and obliged the Biſhop to take time to conſider of the matter before any ſentence could be pronounced ; though he ſeemed to wiſh to have it in his power to adjust the matter to the ſatiſfaction of the family.

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

To Sir John Paston, Knight.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that on Thursday last was, my mother and I were with my Lord of ¹Norwich, and desired him that he would no more do in the matter touching your sister, till that ye and my brother and others that were Executors to your father might be here together, for they had the rule of her as well as I; and he said plainly that he had been required so often to examine her, that he might not, nor would no longer delay it, and charged me in pain of cursing that she should not be deferred, but that she should appear before him the next day; and I said plainly that I would neither bring her nor send her; and then he said that he would send for her himself; and charged that she should be at her liberty to come when he sent for her; and he said by his troth that he would be as sorry for her, and (*if*) she did not well, as he would be and (*if*) she were right near of his kin, both for my mother's sake, and mine, and other of her friends, for he wist well that her demeaning had sticked sore at our hearts.

My mother and I informed him that we could never understand by her saying, by no language that ever she had to him, that neither of them were bound to other, but that they might choose both; then he said that he would say to her as well as he

The expressions of Margaret Paston respecting her daughter must be read with some allowance; we must construe some of them as words of passion and resentment, arising from her avowale of her intentions to fulfil the contract, &c.

¹ Walter Lyhert was promoted to the see of Norwich in 1446, and continued Bishop till his death in 1472; he was a Prelate of great wisdom and of a friendly disposition, ever ready to compose differences and conciliate friends.

could,

he woold fey to her as wele as he kowde before that he exameynd her and so y^t was told me be dyu^rse p^rsones y^t he ded as welle and as pleyndly as sche had be rythe ner to h^y wych wer to long to wrythe at thys tyme her aft^r y^e xalle wete and hoo wer laberers ther in y^e ² schanseler was not so gylty her in as J wend he had ben On Fryday the byfschope he sent for her be Afschefeld and other y^t arn ryth sory of her demenyng. And y^e byfschop feyd to her ryth pleyndly and put her in r^mēberawns how she was born wat kyn and frendds y^t sche had and xuld haue mo yf sche wer rulyd and gydyd aftyr hem and yf she ded not wat rebuke and schame and los yt xuld be to her yf sche wer not gydyd be thē and cause of forsak^yg of her for any good or helpe or kownfort y^t sche xuld haue of hē and feyd y^t he had hard fey y^t sche loued schecheon y^t her frend wer not plesyd w^t y^t sche xuld haue and therfor he had her be ryth weel avyfyd how sche ded and feyd y^t he woold undyrstand y^e woords y^t sche had feyd to h^y wheyther y^t mad mat^rmony or not and sche r^rherfyd wat sche had feyd and feyd yf thoo wordds mad yt not suher she feyd boldly y^t sche wold make y^t fuerher or yā sche went thens for sche feyd sche thowgthe in her Conschens sche was bownd wat so eu^r y^e wordds wern thes leud wordds greueth me and her grandā as myche as alle y^e remnawnte and yā y^e byfschop and the schawnseler bothe feyd y^t ther was neyther J ner no frend of hers wold refeyue and yā Calle was exameynd ap^rte be h^y sylfe y^t her wordds and hys acordyd and the tyme and wher y^t xuld a be don and yā y^e byfschop sayd y^t he supposyd y^t ther

² Dr. John Sareson, otherwise Wigenhale, was Chancellor to the Bishop from 1435 to 1471, and had other church preferment in the Diocese.

xuld

could, before that he examined her; and so it was told me by divers persons that he did as well and as plainly as (*if*) she had been right near to him, which were too long to write at this time, hereafter ye shall weet, and who were labourers therein; the ² Chancellor was not so guilty therein as I wend (*thought*) he had been.

On Friday the Bishop sent for her by Ashfield and other that are right sorry of her demeaning, and the Bishop said to her right plainly, and put her in remembrance how she was born, what kin and friends that she had, and should have more if she were ruled and guided after them; and if she did not, what rebuke, and shame, and loss should be to her, if she were not guided by them, and cause of forsaking of her for any good, or help, or comfort that she should have of them; and said that he had heard say, that she loved such one that her friends were not pleased with that she should have, and therefore he bad her be right well advised how she did; and said that he would understand the words that she had said to him, whether it made matrimony or not, and she rehearsed what she had said, and said, if those words made it not sure, she said boldly, that she would make it surer ere than she went thence, for she said she thought in her conscience she was bound whatsoever the words were; these lewd words grieveth me and her grandam as much as all the remanent; and then the Bishop and the Chancellor both said that there was neither I nor no friend of hers would receive (*her*).

And then Calle was examined apart by himself, that her words and his accorded, and the time, and where it should have been done; and then the Bishop said that he supposed that there should

xuld be fownd other thynngs ageyns h̄y y^t mythe cause y^e lettyng ther of and ther for he say he wold not be to hafty to geue sentens ther upon and sayd y^t he wold geue ou^re day tyl y^e Wednsday or Thursday aftyr Mykylmes and so yt tys delayyd they woold an had her wyl p^rformyd in haſte but y^e byſchope ſeyd he woold non other wyſe yā he had ſeyd J was w^t my mod^r at her plaſe whā ſche was exameynd and wā J hard ſey what her demen̄g was J ſchargyd my frunts y^t ſche xuld not be r^rſeyued in my hows I had zeue hir warn̄g ſche mythe a be war a for yf ſche had a be g^rfyows and J ſent to on or ij mor y^t they xuld not r^rſeyue her yf ſche cā ſche was browthe a geyn to my place for to a be r^rſeyued and S^r Jamys tolde thē yt browthe her y^t J had ſchargyd hē alle and ſche xuld not be r^rſeyued and ſoo my lord of Norwych hath ſet her at Roger beſts to be ther tyle y^e day befor ſay^r god knowyth fule euel ageyn hys wyle and hys wyvys yf they durſt do other wyſe J ā ſory y^t they arn a cumyrd w^t her but zet J ā bett^r payed y^t ſche iſther for y^e whyle ya^t ſche had ben in other place be cauſe of y^e ſadnes and good dyſpoſyſion of hys fylſe and hys wyfe for ſche xal not be ſou^dd ther to pleye y^e br^rthele J pray zow and r^rquer zow y^t ye take yt not penſyly for J wot wele yt gothe ryth ner zowr hart and ſo doth yt to myn and to other but r^rmēbyr zow and ſo do J y^t we haue loſt of her but a brethele and ſet yt y^e les to hart for and ſche had be good w^rſo eu^r ſche had be yt xuld not aben as it is for and he wer ded at thys owyr ſhe xuld neu^r be at myn hart as ſche was as for

y^e

be found other things against him that might cause the letting thereof, and therefore he said he would not be too hasty to give sentence thereupon, and said that he would give over day till the Wednesday or Thursday after Michaelmas, and so it is delayed; they would have had her will performed in haste, but the Bishop said he would none otherwise than he had said.

I was with my Mother at her place when she was examined, and when I heard say what her demeaning was, I charged my Servants that she should not be received in mine house; I had given her warning, she might have been ware afore, if she had been gracious; and I sent to one or two more that they should not receive her if she came; she was brought again to my place for to have been received, and Sir James told them that brought her, that I had charged them all, and she should not be received; and so my Lord of Norwich hath set her at Roger Best's, to be there till the day before said, God knoweth full evil against his will and his wife's, if they durst do otherwise; I am sorry that they are acumyred (*cumbered, or troubled*) with her, but yet I am better paid (*satisfied*) that she is there for the while, than she had been in other place, because of the sadnes (*seriousness*) and good disposition of himself and his wife, for she shall not be sou'd (*suffered, q?*) there to play the brothel; I pray you and require you that ye take it not pensily (*heavily*) for I wot well it goeth right near your heart, and so doth it to mine and to others, but remember you, and so do I, that we have lost of her but a brethel (*a frail one*), and set it the less to heart, for and (*if*) she had been good wheresoever she had been, it should not have been as it is, for and (*if*) he were dead at this hour, she should never

y^e devors y^e ze wr^te to me of J supose wat ze ment but J scharge zow upon my blyfflyng y^t ze do not ner cause non other to do y^t xuld offend god and zou^r conschens for and z^e do or cause for to be do god wul take vengawns ther upon ye xuld put zou^r s^ylfe and other in gret jop^rte for wettyt wele sche xal ful for r^pent her leudnes her aftyr and J pray god sche mute soo. J pray zow for myn hard ys hese be ze of a good Cownfort in alle thynggs J trust god xal helpe ryth wele and I pray God so do in alle ou^r maters J wuld ze toke hed yf ther weher any labor mad in y^e kort of Cawnttrybery for the leud mate^r forsayd. But yf the ³ Duke be purveyd for he and hys wyse kowfel xalle lese thys cūtre yt is told me y^t he seythe y^t he wul not spar to do y^t he is purposyd for no Duke in Ynglond god helpe at nede.

11 ½ by 17. A whole Sheet.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

³ This I suppose relates to the Duke of Norfolk; the other Duke most probably means either the Duke of Clarence or of Suffolk.

LET.

be at mine heart as she was ; as for the divorce that ye write to me of, I suppose what ye meant, but I charge you upon my blessing that ye do not, nor cause none other to do, that should offend God and your conscience, for and (if) ye do, or cause for to be done, God will take vengeance thereupon, and ye should put yourself and others in great jeopardy, for wot it well, she shall full fore repent her lewdness hereafter, and I pray God she might ; so I pray you for mine heart's ease be ye of a good comfort in all things ; I trust God shall help right well, and I pray God so do in all our matters ; I would ye took heed if there were any labour made in the court of Canterbury for the lewd matter aforesaid.

But if the ³ Duke be purveyed for, he and his wife counsel shall leave this country ; it is told me that he saith that he will not spare to do that he is purposed, for no Duke in England. God help at need.

Norwich,
Before Michaelmas,
1469. 9 E. IV.

On the back of the Letter in an ancient hand is written, " A Lrē to Sr. Io. Paston
" from his mother, touching the good will between hir daughter Margery P. and Ric.
" Call, who were after maryed together."

It seems from this memorandum that the contract of marriage was proved and confirmed, and that in consequence of it a marriage took place between the parties.

LET-

L E T T E R R C.

*To Sr John Paston
be this deliued in hast.*

I Grete you wele and fend you godds blyssyng and myn letyng
you wete that Sr Iohn Heuenyngh'm was at Norwich this
day and spake w^t me at my moders but he wuld not y^t it shuld
be understand for my lord hath mad hym on of the Capteynes at
Caystr of y^e pepill y^t shuld kepe the wetcche abaught the place y^e
no mann shuld focor them if my lord dep^rted J desired hym to
favo^r them if any man shuld come to them fro me or you and he
wuld not gr[']unte it but he desired me to write to you to under-
stand if that my lord myght be mevyd to fynde fuer^te to recom-
pense you all wrongs and ye wuld suffre hym to entre pesibilly.
And the lawe aft^r his entre wuld deme it you be ye avysed what
answer ye wuld yeve It' sith that y^t I spake w^t hym and the
same day a feythfull frende of owrs came on to me and mevyd
me if y^t my lord myght be entreted to suffre endifferent men to
kepe the place and take the p[']fites for bothe p[']ties till y^e right
be det[']myned be the lawe and my lord for his p[']te and ye for
you^r p[']te to fynde sufficient fuer^te y^t you nowther shuld vex lette
ner trobilled the seid endifferent men to kepe pesibiley the posses-
sion of y^e seid place and to take y^e p[']fights on to the tyme to be
det[']-

The dispute concerning the possession of Caister now becoming a matter of great consequence, and the siege of it being determined upon by the Duke of Norfolk, if some conciliatory plan could not be devised, Margaret Paston informs Sir John of the different schemes proposed; these she wishes him thoroughly to consider, and, if none should be adopted,

L E T T E R XC.

To Sir John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that Sir John Heveningham was at Norwich this day, and spake with me at my Mother's, but he would not that it should be understood, for my Lord hath made him one of the Captains at Caister, of the people that should keep the watch about the place, that no man should succour them; if my Lord departed. I desired him to favour them, if any man should come to them from me or you, and he would not grant it, but he desired me to write to you to understand, if that my Lord might be moved to find surety to recompence you all wrongs, and ye would suffer him to enter peaceably, and the law after his entry would deem it you; be ye advised what answer ye would give.

Item, since that I spake with him and the same day, a faithful friend of ours came unto me and moved me, if that my Lord might be intreated to suffer indifferent men to keep the place, and take the profits for both parties till the right be determined by the law; and my Lord for his part, and ye for your part, to find sufficient surety that you neither should vex, let, nor trouble the said indifferent men to keep peaceably the possession of the said place, and to take the profits unto the time it be determined

adopted, at all events to succour his friends there. Sir John Heveningham, though engaged against the Pastons, shews himself not only a friend to them, but a faithful Officer to his commander the Duke of Norfolk.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

det'myned be y^e lawe to his behowe y^t the lawe demeth it And y^e feid p^rsones y^t so endifferently kepe possession befor ther entre into the feid place to fynde also sufficient fuerthe to answer the p^rte y^t the lawe demeth it to of y^e p^rfits duryng ther possession and to suffre hym pessibilly to entre or any in his name wham so eu^r thei be required be the p^rte to whom the right is demyd of all y^es p^rmyses send werd how ye will be demened be as good advyse as ye can gete and make no lenger delay for thei must neds haue hasty soco^r that be in the place for thei be sore hurt and haue non help And if thei haue hasty help it shall be the grettest wurchip y^t eu^r ye had and if y^ei be not holpen it shall be to you a gret diswurchep and loke neu^r to haue favo^r of yo^r neybons and frends but if this spede wele y^rfor pretend it in yo^r mend and p^ruey y^rfor in hast how so eu^r ye do God kepe you and send yow the vittory of yo^r elmyse and geve yow and vs al g^rce to leve in peas Wretyn on Sent Gyles evyn at ix of y^e belle at nyght. Robyn came home yest^r evyn aud he brought me nowther writyng from you ner good answer of this mater which grevyth me right ill y^t I haue sent you so many messangers and haue so febill answers ageyn.

Be yo^r moder.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8.

9

LET.

by the law to his behalf, that the law deemeth it; and the said persons, that so indifferently keep possession, before their entry into the said place, to find also sufficient surety to answer the party that the law deemeth it to, of the profits during their possession, and to suffer him peaceably to enter, or any in his name, whensoever they be required by the party to whom the right is deemed of all these premises; send me word how ye will be demeaned by as good advice as ye can get, and make no longer delay, for they must needs have hasty succour that be in the place, for they be fore hurt, and have none help, and if they have hasty help it shall be the greatest worship that ever ye had, and if they be not holpen it shall be to you a great disworship; and look never to have favour of your neighbours and friends, but if (*unless*) this speed well; therefore prend (*consider*) it in your mind, and purvey therefore in haste; howsoever ye do, God keep you, and send you the victory of your enemies, and give you and us all grace to live in peace. Written on Saint Giles's even, at nine of the bell at night.

Robin came home yester even, and he brought me neither writing from you, nor good answer of this matter, which grieveth me right ill that I have sent you so many messengers, and have so feeble answers again.

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Friday,

1 September, 1469.

9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XCJ.

To Maſtyr Wryttyll.

MAST^r Wryttyll J recomande me to yow beſechyng yow hertely as myn holl truſt is in yow that ye doo yowr devoyr to Contynew trews tyll Fryday or Sat^rday in the mornyng by whych tyme J hope the maſſang^r ſhall come and that ye be not dryuen to take an appoyntment if ye kan undreſtand by any lyklyed that itt be able to be abydyn and recyſtyd and that ye fele my brotherys dyſpoſycon therin as my truſt is in yow. prayng yow to remembre that it reſtythe as god helpe me on all my well. For as God helpe me I hadd leuyr the place wer brennyd my brother and ſeruants ſauyd than the beſt appoyntment that euyr ye and I comonyd of ſcholde be my goode wyll be takyn if this maſſage from the Kynge may reſkwe it. And if it be ſo that my lorde be remevyd by the Kynges comendement whyche reſtythe w^t hys hono^r J may in tyme to kome do hym ſervyſe as ſchall recompence any grodge or dyſpleſur that he euyr had or hathe to me or myn and ye if it the rather by your wyſdam and poleſye the moene above wryten may be hadd ſchall be as fewr of the ſervyce of my trewe brother and ſer-

Maſter Writtill, or Wrettell, the perſon to whom this Letter is addreſſed, was a Servant of the Duke of Clarence, and appears to have been ſent down to endeavour at an accommodation between the beſiegers and the beſieged, during the truce which was then taken.

Sir John Paſton, however, ſeems fearful leſt any appointment ſhould be taken detrimental to his intereſt, though at the ſame time he would ſubmit to any thing rather than that his Brother's and his Servant's lives ſhould be endangered.

uantys

L E T T E R XCI.

To Master Writill.

MASTER Writill, I recommend me to you, beseeching you heartily, as mine whole trust is in you, that ye do your devoir to continue truce till Friday or Saturday in the morning, by which time I hope the messenger shall come, and that ye be not driven to take an appointment if ye can understand by any likelihood that it be able to be avoided and resisted, and that ye feel my Brother's disposition therein, as my trust is in you, praying you to remember that it resteth, as God help me, on all my weal; for, as God help' me, I had lever (*rather*) the place were brenned (*burnt*), my Brother and Servants saved, than the best appointment, that ever ye and I communed of, should by my good will be taken, if this message from the King may rescue it; and if it be so, that my Lord be removed by the King's commandment, which resteth with his honour, I may in time to come do him service, as shall recompence any grudge or displeasure that he ever had, or hath to me or mine; and ye, if it the rather by your wisdom and policy the mean above written may be had, shall be as sure of the service of my

John, Duke of Norfolk, claimed this Manor and Castle of Caister, under an agreement for a purchase which had passed between him and Sir William Yelverton, and Thomas Howys, two of Sir John Fastolf's Executors.

It does not appear that they could legally convey this Estate, as, by Sir John Fastolf's Will, it had been left for charitable uses, and towards founding and endowing a College, &c. &c.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

uantys and me as ye kan devyse by my trowthe for in goode feythe thys mat'r stykyth mor nyghe myn hart and me than I kan wryght on to yow. and to my brother and f'uānts mor ner than as God knowyth they wot off. Wherfor Mast' Wryttyll all owre welfare restyth in yow besechyng yow to remembre it. For thys mat'r is to all usse eyther making or marryng It'm affor Arblast' or Louell I kan not thynke that they or any of them may be w^t yow. Wherfor in yow is all and God haue yow in kepyng Wretyn at london the day next affor yowr dep'tyng. J schall sende yow mor knowleche to morow w^t godds grace.

Yowrs

John Paston, k.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

L E T T E R R E C Y J.

RYGH T wershypfull Syr J recomaund me to you thank- yng you of your grete labo'r whych I haue nozt as yet but J shall des'ue to my power and ferthermore lyke yow to wyte that I haue thoght ryght long after you. Neuyrthelesse I remember well that ye delt wythe ryght delayous peple my lord Archbyshop and other of my lords and I dempte by cawse of your long tarryng that by youre sad dyscrefcyon all hadde ben sett thorow. neu'rthelesse I understend by your wrytyng that my
lord

true brother and servants, and me, as ye can devise by my troth; for in good faith this matter sticketh more nigh mine heart and me than I can write unto you, and to my brother and servants more near than, as God knoweth, they wot of; wherefore, master Writtill, all our welfare resteth in you, beseeching you to remember it, for this matter is to all us either making or marring.

Item, as for Arblaster or Lovell, I cannot think that they or any of them may be with you, wherefore in you is all; and God have you in keeping.

Written at London, the next day after your departing; I shall send you more knowledge to-morrow, with God's grace.

Yours

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XCII.

To Master Writtill.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, thanking you of your great labour, which I have not as yet, but I shall deserve to my power; and furthermore like you to weet that I have thought right long after you; nevertheless I remember well that ye dealt with right delayous people, my Lord Archbishop and other of my Lords, and I dempt (*deemed*) because of your long tarrying, that by your sad (*sage*) discretion all had been set through; nevertheless I understand by your writing

lord of Norff's concell thynketh that hys entent whych ye fertefyed me by your wrytyng sholde be more to hys wyshep than the appoyntements and rewill made by the lords of the Kyngs Concell whych be to my seyde lord of Norff. ner kyne whych appoyntements fythen yourr departyng hath be largely remembryd amongs the seyde lords here thynkyng it in hem self so honorabyll to my lord of Norff. that ther shuld non of my lords concell well avyfed mevyd to the Contrary ¹ Jamys Hobard was sent fro my of Norff. heder and spake w^t my lord ² archbyshop and answer he had of my seyde lord and howe my lord tendryd the mater yet and wyll. I trowe he haue told you and yf he haue not the brynger her of schall informe you and he broght thys same appoyntemēt from my lord that my lord was well agryed that J shulde occupye for my parte Jff I shud take no other apoyntemēt but acordyng to your lett^r it wer hard for me and for my tytell to putte my lord in that possessyon for ther ys thyngs in erthe to myn esse in your lett^r gode for me in that appoyntement Sauyng the suerty of my brothers lyffe and my f^vnts whych ye thynke doweftull yf so be that thay lakke stuff shotte and vytayll mervaylyng fore and thynk it Jmpossybell Jn thys shorte Season or in iiij tyme the season heder towards that thay shuld lakk other w^t owte it soo be that my lords men haue enterd owght the place and so had ther stuffe from hem whych J cannot thynk Also S^r for the tyme of your Comyng to my lord

Sir John Paston in this Letter gives further directions to Master Writtil, and informs him of what had passed at London, between the Lords and himself, &c. he appears likewise to rely much on his wisdom and discretion.

¹ This most probably was James Hobart, who, in 1478, was Lent-reader at Lincoln's Inn, and in 1487 Attorney-general.

of

writing that my Lord of Norfolk's counsel thinketh that his intent, which ye certified me by your writing, should be more to his worship than the appointments and rule made by the Lords of the King's council, which be to my said Lord of Norfolk ner kyne (*nothing kind*), which appointments since your departing hath been largely remembered among the said Lords here, thinking it in themselves so honourable to my Lord of Norfolk, that there should none of my Lord's counsel well advised (*have*) moved to the contrary.

¹ James Hobart was sent from my (*Lord*) of Norfolk hither, and spake with my Lord ² Archbishop, and answer he had of my said Lord, and how my Lord tendered the matter yet and will, I trow he hath told you, and if he have not, the bringer hereof shall inform you; and he brought this same appointment from my Lord, that my Lord was well agreed that I should occupy for my part if I should take no other appointment, but according to your Letter it were hard for me and for my title to put my Lord in that possession, for there is things in erthe (*scarcely*) to mine ease in your Letter, good for me in that appointment, saving the surety of my brother's life and my servants, which ye think doubtful, if so be that they lack stuff, shot, and victuals, marvelling fore, and think it impossible in this short season, or in four times the season hither towards, that they should lack either, without it so be that my Lord's men have entered ought (*somewhat*) the place, and so had their stuff from them, which I cannot think. Also Sir, for the time of your coming to my Lord

He died in 1516, and lies buried in Norwich Cathedral; from him the present Earl of Buckinghamshire is lineally descended.

² George Neville, was translated from Exeter to York, in 1464.

of Norff. f'v'nts of my^{...} lords wer w^t my moder at Norwych meuyng to fend to my brother hyr sone to delyu^r the place under such a forme as youre lettere specefyeth and so I cannot understand what regard my lords Concell takyth to my lords letter and to your labo^r in thys behalf but that thay offeryd as largely afore ze wryteth in your letter that ye durst nat passe your credens please you to remember that seyde your credens affore the lords was ryght large and as large as myght well be in thys mater b'eth to my lords concell of Norff. to w^tdrawe the seege w^t moor other mater as ye knowe and to the Iustic of the peas and to the Shyryff and hys offycers your awtoryte was grete Jnow to Jche of them. Wherfor Mayster Wretell J neu^r for thys nere zet wyll take appoyntement in thys mater but as my lords wyll and my lord archbyshop whych as well as I my self haue holy putte our tryst to youre dyscrete dyrececyon and my seyde lord sythen youre dep^rter zour zoyng thynkyng you alls mete a man in executyng ther comaundement as cowde be chosyn Neu^rthelesse for awnswer to you at thys feason my lord archbyshop ys north wards towards the Kyng how be it it ys seyde uppon a metyng w^t my lord of Clarens my lord shuld reto^rne a yen and as zelt^r euyn he fend a f'v'nt of hys to me wenyng to hys lordshyp that S^r ³ Humfray and ye wer in Caster as was appoynted and ye shuld fend to hys lordshyp answer of the gydyng ther by wrytyng comaundyng me that yff any such wrytyngs cam from you yf hys lordshyp wer not past xx myle from^{...} london to com to hys lordshyp w^t the same understanding for sertayn that he ys nott yet so ferr.

³ Sir Humphrey Talbot, was a Captain at this siege, under the Duke of Norfolk.

Wherfor

of Norfolk, servants of my Lord's were with my mother at Norwich, moving to send to my brother her son, to deliver the place under such a form as your Letter spccifieth, and so I cannot understand what regard my Lord's counsel taketh to my Lord's Letter, and to your labour in this behalf, but that they offered as largely afore; ye writeth in your Letter that ye durst not pass your credence, please you to remember that said your credence afore the Lords was right large, and as large as might well be in this matter, both to my Lord's counsel of Norfolk to withdraw the siege, with more other matter as ye know; and to the Justice of the Peace and to the Sheriff and his officers, your authority was great enough to each of them.

Wherefore, Master Writtill I never for this, nor yet will take appointment in this matter, but as my Lords will and my Lord Archbishop, which as well as I myself, have wholly put our trust to your discreet direction; and my said Lord since your departure your going, thinking you as meet a man in executing their commandment as could be chosen; nevertheless for answer to you at this season, my Lord Archbishop is northwards towards the King; howbeit, it is said upon a meeting with my Lord of Clarence, my Lord shall return again; and as yester even he sent a servant of his to me, weening to his Lordship (*his Lordship thinking*), that Sir ³ Humphrey and ye were in Caister as was appointed, and ye should send to his Lordship answer of the guiding there by writing, commanding me, that if any such writings came from you, if his Lordship were not past twenty miles from London, to come to his Lordship with the same; understanding for certain that he is not yet so far; wherefore I

Wherfor J will in althe haſt poſſybell ryde nygt and day till J ſee
 hys lordſhyp and after Comunicacyon had w^t hys lordſhyp as
 ſone as ys poſſybell that a man may go be twext ye ſhall haue
 an anſwer of hys dyſpoſicyon for hys Jntres is ſuch that as I haue
 wryten I ſhall neu^r do therin w^toute hym as my Coſyn brynger
 herof more playnly ſhall enforme you For I canne thynke ryght
 well that as ze wryteth to me my broder wyll not delyu^r the place
 to non erthly perſon but yf he ſee wrytyng fro my lord it ſemyt
 be your wrytyng that my lord of Norff. conſeyll Jntende not
 that my lord Archbyſhop ſhuld dele in thys mater for he ys not
 named in your lett^r wherof J mervayle for it was movyd to you
 at your departyng hens the Kyngs concell ſhuld haue take dyrec-
 cyon in thys mater or els my lord ⁴ Cardenall my lord of Clarens
 my lord Archbyſhop and my lord of ⁵ Effex &c. Neu^rtheleſſe
 Mayſt^r Wryttyll all profytth Man^r or lyflod leyd apart if it be
 ſo that thorow rekleſneſe my brother and f^rv^{nts} be in ſuch Jop^{te}
 as ye haue wryten to me whych ſhold be half Jmpoſſybell in my
 mynd that thay ſhold myſſuſe ſo mech ſtuff in iiij tymes the
 ſpace and that ye haue euident knowlych by my ſeyd brother
 hym ſelf therof. J woll praye yow to ſe hym and them in ſuerte
 of ther lyffys what ſo eu^r ſhold fall of the lyfflode how be it J
 wold not that my brother and f^rv^{nts} ſhold gyff upp the place
 not for a m^l li. yf thay myght in any wyſe kepe it and ſave ther
 lyves and therfor at the reuerens of God fycht it ys ſo that my
 lord Archbyſhop and my lords all and J haue putte o^r truſt in
 you that ye wyll do yo^r deuoyer to haue the verrey knowlech of

⁴ Thomas Bouchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Lord Cardinal.

will in all the haste possible ride night and day till I see his Lordship, and after communication had with his Lordship, as soon as is possible that a man may go betwixt, ye shall have an answer of his disposition ; for his interest is such that, as I have written, I shall never do therein without him, as my Cousin, bringer hereof, more plainly shall inform you ; for I can think right well, that as ye writeth to me, my brother will not deliver the place to none earthly person, but if (*unless*) he see writing from my Lord.

It seemeth by your writing that my Lord of Norfolk's counsel intend not that my Lord Archbishop should deal in this matter, for he is not named in your Letter, whereof I marvel ; for it was moved to you at your departing hence, the King's council should have taken direction in this matter, or else my ⁴ Lord Cardinal, my Lord of Clarence, my Lord Archbishop, and my Lord of ⁵ Essex, &c. Nevertheless, Master Writtil, all profit, manor, or livelihood, laid apart, if it be so that through rekelessness (*negligence*) my brother and servants be in such jeopardy as ye have written to me, which should be half impossible in my mind that they should misuse so much stuff in four times the space, and that ye have evident knowledge by my said brother himself thereof ; I will pray you to see him and them in surety of their lives, whatsoever shall fall of the livelihood, howbeit, I would not that my brother and servants should give up the place not for a thousand pounds, if they might in any wise keep it and save their lives ; and therefore, at the reverence of God, since it is so, that my Lord Archbishop and my Lords all, and I have put our trust in you, that ye will do your devoir to have the very knowledge

⁵ Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex.

my brother hymself and not of my lords men wheder he stante in such Jop'tye as your lett^r specefyeth or net for J dowte not uppon the fyzth of thys lett^r and of the lett^r that ye had before that my brother will put no mystrust in you Confyderyng that he knowyth that ye com from my lords and my lord Archbyshop and haue my wrytyng and as for my lord Archbyshop wrytyng and aunswere such as it shalbe ye shall haue it in all the haste possybell but I thynke v'yly that my lord eschewyth to telle you any thyng w'tout y^t he myght speke w^t you allone and me thynketh v'yly that thay ought not to lette you to speke w^t hym allone confyderyng that ye haue auctoryte and wrytyng from the lords so to do and as for the Justificacyon of entryng the place and sege layng to the same and the comaundement of the Justic of the pease and the Sherewe to assyste my lord in thys gydyng J wote ye understond that the lords knowe all that mater and ye herd it Comened and how thay toke it in ther consayts ther ys no more mayst^r Wryttell but J comyth all thys wrytyng unto your dyscrecyon And as ye thynk best acordyng to such menys desyre as haue entretyd you therin and for my moyst avayle J p'y you Sr soo doo and I shall se un to your besynes and labor that ye shall haue Cause to do for me in tyme Comyng and as the brynger herof shall tell you and I p'y god haue you in hys kepyng Wryten at london the x day of Septembr.

By yo^r frend for ever

⁶ John Pastou, k.

Paper Mark,
A Coronet.
Pl. xxvi. N^o 2.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

LET

of my brother himself, and not of my Lord's men, whether he stand in such jeopardy as your Letter specifieth or not, for I doubt not upon the sight of this Letter, and of the Letter that ye had before, that my brother will put no mistrust in you, considering that he knoweth that ye come from my Lords, and my Lord Archbishop, and have my writing; and as for my Lord Archbishop's writing and answer such as it shall be, ye shall have it in all haste possible, but I think verily that my Lord escheweth to tell you any thing without that he might speak with you alone, and me thinketh verily that they ought not to let (*binder*) you to speak with him alone, considering that ye have authority and writing from the Lords so to do; and as for the justification of entering the place, and siege laying to the same, and the commandment of the justice of the peace and the Sheriff to assist my Lord in this guiding, I wot ye understand that the Lords know all that matter, and ye heard it communed, and how they took it in their conceits.

There is no more, Master Writtil, but I commit all this writing unto your discretion, and as ye think best according to such men's desire as have intreated you therein, and for my most avail, I pray you, Sir, so do, and I shall see unto your business, and labour that ye shall have cause to do for me in time coming, and as the bringer hereof shall tell you, and I pray God have you in his keeping.

Written at London, the 10th day of September.

By your Friend for ever,

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Sunday,
10th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XCIII.

I Grete you wele letyng you wcte that yo^r brother and his fellowshep stand in grete jop^rte at Cayst^r and lakke vetayll and ¹ Dawbeney and ² Berney be dedde and diu^rse other gretly hurt and thei fayll gunnepowder and arrowes and the place fore brokyn w^t Gonnes of y^e toder p^rte so that but thei haue hasty help thei be like to lese bothe ther lyfes and the place to the grettest rebuke to you that eu^r came to any jentilman for eu^ry man in this Countre marvaylleth gretly that ye suffre them to be so longe in so gret Jop^rte w^t ought help or other remedy The Duke hathe be more fervently set y[']up on and more Cruell sith y^t Wretyll my lord of Claraunce man was ther than he was before and he hath sent for all his ten[']nts from eu[']y place and other to be ther at Cayst^r on Thorysday next comyng that ther is than like to be the grettest multitude of pepill y^t came y['] yet and thei

My Readers I make no doubt will be equally pleased with myself, in having so authentic an account of the manners of the times placed before them, wherein a disputed title to an estate is not contested in the Courts of Law, but by a regular and well conducted siege laid to the Castle claimed by the besiegers.

Every warlike preparation is made by both parties, and the assault and defence is carried on with the greatest military skill.

The number of the besiegers is said by Blomefield to have amounted to three thousand, while the number of those who defended the place did not exceed thirty persons; a proof of the strength of the fortress attacked, which, with this handful of men, held out some time.

The anxiety of Margaret Paston for the safety of her son and his companions, interests us in her favour, and her advice to Sir John to apply to the Earl of Oxford for his assistance to raise the siege, though, if attended with success, he should enjoy the Manor of Caister for his life, is a curious circumstance, and throws light upon the manners and politics of the times.

p'pose

L E T T E R XCIII.

To Sir John Paston, Knight.

I Greet you well, letting you weet that your Brother and his fellowship stand in great jeopardy at Caister, and lack victuals, and ¹ Dawbeney and ² Berney be dead, and divers other greatly hurt; and they fail Gunpowder and Arrows, and the place (*is*) fore broken with guns of the other party, so that but (*unless*) they have hasty help, they be like to lose both their lives and the place, to the greatest rebuke to you that ever came to any gentleman, for every man in this country marvelleth greatly that ye suffer them to be so long in so great jeopardy without help or other remedy.

The Duke hath been more fervently set thereupon, and more cruel, since that Writtil, my Lord of Clarence's man was there, than he was before, and he hath sent for all his tenants from every place, and others, to be there at Caister on Thursday next coming, that there is then like to be the greatest multitude of people that came there yet; and they purpose then to make a

¹ John Dawbeney, Esq. whose death is here mentioned, was a gentleman of a good family in the County of Norfolk, and was probably an ancestor of a family now residing at Coulton, in the same County, who write themselves Daveney.

² Osbert Berney, the other person here mentioned as dead, was not killed at this siege, he survived, and died without issue some years after, when he was buried in Bradeston Church, in Norfolk, there being a brass plate in the Chancel, having the following inscription to his memory:

"*Hic jacet Osbertus, filius Joh. Berney, Armig. de Redeham Dni et de Brayston.*"

He was the son of John Berney, Esq. by Catherine, daughter of Osbert Mundeford, of Hockwell, Esq.

p'pose them to make a gret affaught for thei haue sent for Gannes to lynne and other place be the seeys syde y^t w^t ther gret multitude of Gannes w^t other shoot and ordyn'nce ther shall no man dar appere in y^e place thei shall hold them so besy w^t ther gret pepill y^t it shall not lye in their pore wⁱⁿ to hold it ageyn them w^t ought god help them or haue hasty focor from you Therfor as ye wull haue my blyffing I charge you and require you y^t ye se yo^r brother be holpyn in hast And if ye can haue nonmeane rather desire writyng fro my lord of Clarens if he be at london or ell of my lord Archebushop of york to y^e Duke of Norff. y^t he wull gr'unte them y^t be in y^e place her lyfes and ther goodes and in eschewyng of insurrecons w^t other in conuenyens y^t be like to growe wⁱⁿ the Shire of Norff. this troubles werd be cause of such conuenticles and gaderyngs wⁱⁿ the seid shire for cause of y^e seid place thei shall suffre hym to entre up on such appoyntment or other like takyn be the advyse of yo^r counsell ther at london if ye thynk this be not good till the law hath det'myned otherwyse and lete hym write a nother lett^r to yo^r brother to deliu^r the place up on the same appoyntment and if ye thynk as I can suppose that the Duke of Norff. wull not aggre to this be cause he gr'unted this afor and thei in the place wuld not accept it than J wuld the seid massanger shuld w^t the seid letters bryng fro the seid lord of Clarence or ell my lord Archebushop to my lord of Oxenford other letters to rescue them forth w^t thowghe the seid Erle of Oxenford shuld
haue

great assault, for they have sent for guns to Lynn and other places, by the sea's side, that, with their great multitude of guns with other shot and ordnance, there shall no man dare appear in the place, they shall hold them so busy with their great (*number of*) people, that it shall not lie in their power within to hold it against them, without God help them, or (*they*) have hasty succour from you ; therefore, as ye will have my blessing, I charge you and require you, that ye see your brother be holpen in haste, and if ye can have none mean rather desire writing from my Lord of Clarence, if he be at London, or else of my Lord Archbishop of York, to the Duke of Norfolk, that he will grant them that be in the place their lives and their goods, and in eschewing of insurrections with other inconveniences that be like to grow within the Shire of Norfolk, this troublous werd (*tumultuous world*), because of such conventicles and gatherings within the said Shire, for cause of the said place, they shall suffer him to enter upon such appointment or other like, taken by the advice of your counsel there at London, if ye think this be not good, till the law hath determined otherwise, and let him write another Letter to your brother to deliver the place up on the same appointment ; and if ye think, as I can suppose, that the Duke of Norfolk will not agree to this, because he granted this afore, and they in the place would not accept it, then I would the said messenger should with the said Letters bring from the said Lord of Clarence, or else my Lord Archbishop, to my Lord of Oxford other Letters to rescue them forthwith, though the said Earl

haue the place duryng his lyfe for his labo^r Spare not this to be don in haft if ye wull haue ther lyves and be sett by in Norff. though ye shuld leys the best man^r of all for the rescuse J had leuer ye last y^e lyffelode than ther lyfes ye must gete a Massanger of the lords or fume other notabill man to bryng ther letters do you^r devo^r now and lete me send you no mor Massangers for this maters but send me be the berer her of more certeyn Comfort than ye haue do be all other that J haue sent be for Jn any wyse lete the letters y^r shall Come to y^e Erle of Oxenford comyn w^t the letters that shall comyn to y^e Duke of Norff. y^r if he wull not aggree to the ton that ye may haue redy yo^r rescuse y^r it nede no mor to send y^r for God kepe you Wretyn the Tuesday next befor holy rood Day in haft.

Be yo^r moder

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 12 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. XXII. N^o 13.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

LETTER XCII.

MOODR uppon Sat'day last was Dawbeney and Bernay wer on lyve and mery And I suppose ther Com no man owt of the place to yow syn that tyme that cowde haue asserteynynd to yow of ther dethys. And as towchyg the Fyrseness of the Duke

of Oxford should have the place during his life for his labour ; spare not this to be done in haste if ye will have their lives, and be set by (*esteemed*) in Norfolk, though ye should lose the best manor of all for the rescous. I had lever (*rather*) ye lost the livelihood than their lives ; ye must get a messenger of the Lords, or some other notable man, to bring these Letters; do your devoir now, and let me send you no more messengers for this matter, but send me by the bearer hereof more certain comfort than ye have done by all other that I sent before ; in any wise let the Letters that shall come to the Earl of Oxford, come with the Letters that shall come to the Duke of Norfolk, that if he will not agree to the one, that ye may have ready your rescous, that it need no more to send, therefore God keep you. Written the Tuesday next before Holy Rood day, in haste.

By your Mother

3 MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Tuesday,
12th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XCIV.

To Margaret Paston.

MOTHER, upon Saturday (*that*) last was, Dawbeney and Berney were alive and merry, and I suppose there came no man out of the place to you since that time, that could have ascertained to you of their deaths ; and as touching the fierceness

3 D 2

of

Duke or of hys peple schewyd fyn that tyme that Wryttel dep'tyd J trowe it was concludyd that trews and abstynence of werre scholde be hadd er he dep'tyd whych shalle dewr tyl Monday next Comyng and by that tyme i trow y^t trews shall be takyn tyll that day vij nyght afr by whych tyme I hope of a goode dyrecon schall be hadde And wher as ye wryght to me y^t I scholde fewe for lett'is from my lordys of Claranc and Yorke they be not her and if they wrot to hym as yey haue don ij tymes I trow it wolde nat advayle and as for to labor thois lett'is and the rescu to gedre they ben ij fendry thyngys For when the rescu is redy that the Cost ther of is don For if J be dreuyn therto to rescu it er they Com ther that scholde do it it shall cost a m^l escuys And as meche aft^r whyh wey wer harde for me to take whyll y^t I maye do it otherwise but as to sey y^t they schall be rescuyd if all the lands y^t I haue in Jngelond and frendys maye do it they shall and god be frendly and that as schertly as it may goodlely and wele be brout abut and the gretteft defawt erthly is mony and som frendys and neyborys to helpe Wherfor I besече yow to sende me cōfort what what money ye coude fynde the menys to get or cheuysche uppon fuerte sufficient er uppon lyflod to be Jnmorgē er yit solde and what peple by lyklyed yowr frendys and myn kowde make uppon a schort warnyng and to send me worde in all the hast as it is needfull but moodre J fele by yowr wryghtyng that ye deme in me I scholde not do my deuyr

Sir John Paston here seems hurt at his Mother's suspecting him of not exerting himself to the utmost in endeavouring either to accommodate matters, or to assist his brother and friends within the place. He shews himself likewise both a man of spirit in coming with

of the Duke or of his people, shewed since that time that Writ-till departed, I trow it was concluded that truce and abstinence of war should be had ere he departed, which shall endure till Monday next coming; and by that time I trow that truce shall be taken till that day sev'night after, by which time, I hope of, a good direction shall be had; and whereas ye write to me that I should sue for letters from my Lords of Clarence and York, they be not here, and if they wrote to him as they have done two times, I trow it would not avail; and as for to labour those letters and the rescue together, they be two fundry things, for when the rescue is ready, that the cost thereof is done, for if I be driven thereto to rescue it ere they come there, that should do it, it shall cost a thousand Escutys, and as much after, which way were hard for me to take while that I may do it otherwise; but as to say, that they shall be rescued if all the lands that I have in England, and Friends may do it, they shall, and (*if*) God be friendly, and that as shortly as it may goodly and well be brought about; and the greatest default earthly is money, and some friends and neighbours to help, wherefore I beseech you to send me comfort with what money ye could find the means to get or chevise (*borrow upon interest*), upon surety sufficient, or upon livelihood to be in mortgage or yet sold, and what people by likelihood your friends and mine could make upon a short warning, and to send me word in all the haste as it is needful; but, Mother, I feel by your writing that ye deem in me,

with a few to their relief, if he had a place in Norfolk for their reception, and of feeling for the distress of those shut up in his Castle at Caister.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

I should

deuyr w'owt ye wrot to me som hevy tydyngs And modre if I had nede to be qwykynynd w^t a lett^r in thys nede J wer of my selfe to flawe a felaw but moodre J enfur yow y^t J haue herde x tymes werse tydyngs syn the aslege by gan than any lett^r that ye wrot to me and somtyme J haue herde ryght goode tydyngs both but thys J ensure yow that they that be wⁱⁿ haue no werse reste than I haue ner castyth mor Jupperte but whethyr I had goode tydyngys er ill J take Gode to wittnesse y^t I haue don my devoyr as I wolde be don for in case lyke and schall doo tyll ther be an ende of it. J haue sent to the Kynge to Yorke and to y^e lordys and hope to haue ansswer from them by Wednyfday at y^e ferthest and aft^r that ansswer shall J be rewlyd and than send yow word for tyll that tyme kan J take non dyreccon And to encomfort yow dypeyre yow not for lak of vytayle ner of gonne powder ner be natt to heuy ner to mery therfor For and hevynesse or sorow wolde haue be the remedy ther of I knew neuyr mater in my lyfe y^t I kowde haue ben so heuy or sory for and w^t goddys grace it schall be remedyed well jnow For by my trowthe I hadde leuer lose the man^r of Cast^r than y^e symplest mannys lyfe therin if that maybe hys faueacon Wherfor I besече yow to sende me worde wat mony And men ye thynke y^t I am lyke to get in that cōtr For the hasty purchase of mony and men schall be the getyng and rescu of it and the fauevacon of most mennys lyfys if we take y^t weye Also thys daye I porpose to sende to Yorke to y^e Kyng for a thyng Whych same only maye be lyklyod be the favacon of all ye must remembre that the rescue of it is the last remedy of all and how it is nat easy to get.

and

I should not do my devoir (*endeavour*) without ye wrote to me some heavy tidings, and, Mother, if I had need to be quickened with a Letter in this need, I were of myself too slow a fellow; but, Mother, I ensure (*assure*) you that I have heard ten times worse tidings since the siege began, than any Letter that ye wrote to me, and sometimes I have heard right good tidings both; but this I assure you that they that be within have no worse rest than I have, nor casteth more jeopardy; but whether I had good tidings or ill, I take God to witness, that I have done my devoir, as I would be done for in case like, and shall do till there be an end of it.

I have sent to the King to York, and to the Lords, and hope to have answer from them by Wednesday at the furthest, and after that answer shall I be ruled, and then send you word, for till that time can I take none direction; and to encomfort you, despair you not for lack of victuals nor of gunpowder, nor be not too heavy nor too merry therefore; for and (*if*) heaviness or sorrow would have been the remedy thereof, I knew never matter in my life that I could have been so heavy or sorry for, and with God's grace it shall be remedied well enough, for by my troth I had lever (*rather*) lose the Manor of Caister than the simplest man's life therein, if that may be his salvation; wherefore I beseech you to send me word what money and men ye think that I am like to get in that country; for the hasty purchase of money and men shall be the getting and rescue of it, and the salvation of most men's lives, if we take that way.

Also, this day I purpose to send to York to the King for a thing, which same only may by likelihood be the salvation of all; ye must remember that the rescue of it is the last remedy of
all,

and also ye sende me worde y^t I scholde nat kome hom w^owt
y^t I kome stronke but if I had hadd on other stronge place in
Norfolke to haue comen to thowe J had browt ryght fewe w^t me
I scholde w^t godds grace haue rescued it by thys tyme er ellys he
scholde haue ben fayne to haue besegyde bothe placys or yit And
the Duke had not kept Yarmoth owthe. but Mother J beseche
yow sende me som mony for by my trowth I haue but x^s I wot
not wher to haue mor and Moreouy' J haue ben x tymes in lyke
case or werse wⁱn thys x wekys. J sent to Rychard Call for mo-
ny but he sendyth me non J beseche yow to gyde the euydence
y^t Pekok can tell yow of and to se it saffe for it is tolde me y^t
Richard Call hath hadd right large langage of them J wolde nat
they com in hys fyngrys. J haue no worde from yow of them.
ner whether ye haue yit in yowr kepyng the euydence of Est
Bekh'm owt of hys handys. Ner whethyr ye haue sent to my
manerys that they schold not paye hym No mor mony or not.
Also y^t it like yow to geve credence to Robyn in other thyngs
Wret the Fryday next aft^r Holy roode day.

John Paston, H.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
A Demy Bull.
Pl. x. No 5.

LET

all, and how it is not easy to get ; and also ye send me word that I should not come home without that I come strong, but if I had had one other strong place in Norfolk, to have come to, though I had brought right few with me, I should with God's grace have rescued it by this time, or else he should have been fain to have besieged both places ere yet, and (*if*) the Duke had not kept Yarmouth out : but, Mother, I beseech you send me some money, for by my troth I have but ten shillings, and wot not where to have more ; and moreover I have been ten times in like case, or worse, within this ten weeks.

I sent to Richard Calle for money, but he sendeth me none ; I beseech you to guide the evidence that Peacock can tell you of, and to see it safe, for it is told me that Richard Calle hath had right large language of them ; I would not they come in his fingers : I have no word from you of them, nor whether ye have yet in your keeping the evidence of East Beckham out of his hands, nor whether ye have sent to my Manors that they should not pay him no more money or not ; also that it like you to give credence to Robin in other things.

Written the Friday next after Holy Rood day.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Friday,
15th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XCII.

*To John Paston
and to non othyr.*

I Recomand me to yow and promyse yow y^t J haue and schall labore and fynde y^e meane y^t ye schall haue honor of yowr delyng as ye haue hyddr towards as all Jngelond and eu'y man reportythe and moreou^r J am in weye for it by many dyu^rse weys. Wherof ther schall be one exicutyd by thys day xiiij nyght at y^e ferthest and p^rauentur wⁱn vij dayes and iff ye maye kepe it so longe J wolde be gladde. And afr that iff ye have nott from me other wryghtyng that than ye do ther in for yowr saffgarde and yowr felaschep only and to yowr worschypys. and as for the place no force therfor ye knowe thys hande y^rfor nedythe no mencon from whom it Comythe and more ouyr they that be abut yow be in obloquy of all men and mor ouyr they haue ben wretyn to by alse speciall wryghtyng as myght be aft^r the worlde y^t now is and promyse yow y^t the Dukes Concell wolde y^t they had neuyr be gon it. and more ouyr they be chargyd in payne of ther lyuys that thow they gate the place they scholde not hurt on of yow. ther is nowther ye ner none w^t yow but and he knewe what is gen'ally reportyd of hym he or ye and god fortewne yow wele may thynke hym iiij tymes better in reputacon.

This Letter is written by Sir John Paston, to his Brother John Paston, to encourage him to hold out Caister Castle as long as he has hopes of relief; he tells him of the good opinion which is entertained of the courage and conduct of those in the place, but that those who besiege it are mentioned in a very different manner.

L E T T E R XCV.

To John Paston, and to none other.

I Recommend me to you, and promise you that I have and shall labour and find the mean that ye shall have honour of your dealing, as ye have hither towards, as all England and every man reporteth; and moreover I am in way for it by many divers ways, whereof there shall be one executed by this day fortnight at the furthest, and peradventure within seven days; and if ye may keep it so long I would be glad, and after that if ye have not from me other writing, that then ye do therein for your safe-guard and your fellowship only, and to your worships; and as for the place, no force therefore; ye know this hand, therefore needeth no mention from whom it cometh; and moreover they that be about you be in obliquy of all men; and moreover they have been written to by as special writing as might be, after the world that now is, and promise you that the Duke's counsel would that they had never begun it; and moreover they be charged in pain of their lives, that though they get the place, they should not hurt one of you; there is neither ye nor none with you, but, and (*if*) he knew what is generally reported of him, he or ye, and God fortune you well, may think him four times better in reputation of all folk than ever he was.

The Letter is curious, and written in a style to give both spirits and hope to the besieged.

of all folk than euyr he was be war whom ye make a concell
to thys mat^r. Also J lete yow wete y^t I am in moche mor Com-
fort of yow yan J maye wryght and they y^t be about yow haue
cawse to be mor ferde than ye haue And also bewar of spendyng
of yowr stufte of qwarellys powdr and stone so that if they assaut
yow er we Come that ye haue stufte to dyffende yow of ov^r
and than of my lyfe ye get no mor And that your felaschyp be
euyr ocopyed in renewyng of your stufte Wretyn the mondaye
next afr holy Roode Daye.

J trow thow ye be not preuy ther
to ther is taken a trews new tyl
thys Day vij nygh.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 9.

Paper Mark,

A Ring.

Pl. xxii. N^o 17.

LETTER XCIIJ.

*To Sr Iohn. Paston
in hast
a matr^r.*

I Grete zow wele and send zow godds blyfflyng and m^y letyng
zow wete yat me thynke be y^e lett^r y^t ze sent me be Robeyn
y^t ze thynke y^t I xuld wryte to zow fabylys and ymagynacyons
but

Beware whom ye make a counfel to this matter.

Also, I let you weet that I am in much more comfort of you than I may write, and they that be about you have cause to be more ferde (*afraid*) than ye have ; and also beware of spending of your stuff of quarrels (*square headed arrows*), powder, and stone (*stone bullets*), so that if they assault you ere we come, that ye have stuff to defend you of over, and then of my life ye get no more ; and that your fellowship be ever occupied in renewing of your stuff.

Written the Monday next, after Holy Rood day.

I trow, though ye be not privy thereto, there is taken a truce new till this day sev'night.

Monday,
18th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XCVI.

To Sir John Paston, in haste, a matre.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that me think by the Letter that ye sent me by Robin, that ye think that I should write to you fables and
imagina-

but I do not soo I haue wryt̄ as yt haue be enformed me and wulle do Jt was told me y^t bothe Daubeney and Berney wer dedee but for f^rten Daubeney is dede god asfoyle hys fowle wher of J ā rythe fery and yt had plesyd God yat yt mythe abe oder wyffe Remēbyr zow ze haue had ij gret lossys w^yne thys Towylemo^th of h̄y and of Sr Thomas. God wyf̄yth zow as yt plesythe h̄y Jn fūdery wyfes he woole ze xuld knowe h̄y and f^rue h̄y bett^r yā ze haue do be for thys tyme and yā he wull fend zow y^e mor gr[']ce to do wele in ale other thynggs And for godds loue remēbyr yt rythe welle and take yt pacyentely and thanke god of hys vyfitycyon and yf ony thyng haue be a myffe ony other wyfe yā yt howte to haue ben befor thys owther in pryde or in laves expēcs or in eny other thyng yat haue offendyd god amend yt and pray h̄y of hys g[']ce and helpe and entende welle to god and to zo^r neybors and thow zo^r poor herafter be to aquyte hē of her maleys zet be m^rfyfule to thē and god xale fend zow y^e mor g[']ce to haue yo^r entente in other thynggs I remēbyr thys clawfys be cause of y^e laft lett^r y^t ze sent me I haue sent to Hary Halmā of Sporylle to helpe to gete as ze desyerd me and he cāne not gette passyd v or viij at the most and zet yt wule not be but yf he cūe yat ze trust upon yat xuld cūe for they long a p^rte to h̄y and Ryfchard Sharman hathe asayed on hys p^rte and he cāe not gette passyd v for thoo yat long to u^s thei long also to o^r adu^rfarys and they haue be desyerd be thē and they woold nowte do for hē and ther for they thynke to haue magery of y^e toder p^rte. As for y^e lantylmā yat y^e desyerd me
to

imaginations, but I do not so, I have written as it have been informed me, and will do; it was told me that both Dawbeney and Berney were dead, but for certain Dawbeney is dead. God affoil his Soul, whereof I am right sorry, and it had pleased God that it might have been otherwise.

Remember you, ye have had two great losses within this twelvemonth of him, and of Sir Thomas; God visiteth you as it pleaseth him in sundry wises, he would ye should know him and serve him better than ye have done before this time, and then he will send you the more grace to do well in all other things; and for God's love remember it right well, and take it patiently, and thank God of his visitation; and if any thing have been amiss, any otherwise than it ought to have been before this, either in pride, or in lavish expences, or in any other thing, that have offended God, amend it, and pray him of his grace and help, and intend well to God, and to your neighbours, and though your power hereafter be to acquit them of their malice, yet be merciful to them, and God shall send you the more grace to have your intent in other things. I remember these clauses, because of the last Letter that ye sent me. I have sent to Harry Halman, of Sporle, to help to get as ye desired me, and he cannot get past five or eight at the most, and yet it will not be, but if (*unless*) he come, that ye trust upon that should come, for they long (*belong*) apart to him; and Richard Sharman hath assayed on his part, and he cannot get past five for those that long to us, they long also to our adversaries, and they have been desired by them, and they would nought do for them, and therefore they think to have magery (*q? management*) of the other part.

As

to speke w^t I spake w^t hys wyfe and sche told me he was not in
 thys cūtr ner nowte woost wā he xuld be her and as for the tod^r
 mā he hath bowthe h̄y a ¹ liu'ry in Bromeholme Pryery and
 haue geue upe y^e woord &c. It' as for mony I kowde getee but
 x li upon pledgs and y^t is spent for zo^r maters herfor payeng of
 zo^r mē y^t wern at Cast^r and other thynggs and I woot not wer
 to gette non nowther for fuerthe n' for pleggs And as for myn
 owyn lyuelod J ā so sympely payed ther of y^t I fer me I xale be
 fayn to borow for my fylfe or ell to br'ke up howfold or bothe
 as for y^e zeddyng of the place at Cast^r J trowe Wretyll hathe told
 of the paw'temēts how ytts delyu'd J woold y^t had be so her
 thys tyme and zāther xuld not a bē do so mykyle herte as ther
 is in dyu'se weyes For māy of o^r welewyllers arn putte to looffe
 for o^r faks And I fer me y^t xale be long her yt be r'cūpensyd
 ageyn and y^t xale cause other to do y^e lesse for vus her aftyr J
 woold ze xuld zo^r brother woord and fū other y^t ze truste to see
 to zo^r owyn lyelod to sette yt in a rule and to gad^r ther of y^t
 may be had in haste and also if S^r John Fastolf lyelod y^t may be
 gadyrd in pesybyle wyse for as for Ryfchard Calle he wulle no
 mor gadyr yt but yf ze comaund h̄y and he woold fayn make

This well written Letter of Margaret Paston to Sir John Paston, gives us an high opi-
 nion of her good sense and prudent conduct; she is justly displeased with him for sup-
 posing, that she should knowingly send him false information; the good advice she gives
 him flows from her own reliance upon God, and from her knowledge of mankind; she
 laments her own inability to assist him with money, and recommends proper methods for
 the increase of his livelihood.

hys

As for the gentleman that ye desired me to speak with, I spake with his wife, and she told me he was not in this country, nor nought wist when he should be here ; and as for the other man he has bought him a ¹ Livery in Bromholm Priory, and have given up the world, &c.

Item, as for money I could get but ten pounds upon pledges, and that is spent for your matters here, for paying of your men that were at Caister, and other things, and I wot not where to get none, neither for surety nor for pledges ; and as for mine own livelihood, I am so simply paid thereof, that I fear me I shall be fain to borrow for myself, or else to break up household, or both.

As for the yielding of the place at Caister, I trow Writtil hath told of the pawntements (*appointments*) how it is delivered, I would that had been so ere this time, and then there should not have been done so mickle hurt as there is in divers ways, for many of our well-willers are put to los for our sakes, and I fear me it shall be long ere it be recompensed again, and that shall cause others to do the less for us hereafter.

I would ye should (*send*) your brother word, and some other that ye trust, to see to your own livelihood to set it in a rule, and to gather thereof that may be had in haste ; and also of Sir John Fastolf's livelihood, that may be gathered in peaceable wise, for as for Richard Calle he will no more gather it, but if (*unless*) ye command him, and he would fain make his account,

¹ It was usual in these times for persons growing into years, to procure by purchase or gift a retreat in some religious society, where, giving up all concern in worldly matters, they passed the remainder of their time in prayer and confession ; some did it to finish a pure and unspotted life in a place set apart for religion, where they should be free from every worldly engagement ; others undertook it as an atonement for their former evil deeds, with a hope that it might insure their eternal welfare.

hys . . . acowntte and haue zo^r good Mayf^tyr fchepe as ytts told me and delyu'e y^e euydens of bekk^eh'm And alle other thynggs y^t longyth to zow y^t he truftythe y^t ze wylle be hys good mayf^ter heraf^tyr. And he fethe he wylle not take non newe maft' tyle ze refufe hys f'uyfe Remēbyr y^t zo^r lyuelod may be fet in foche a rule y^t y^e may knowe how ytts and wat is owyn to zow for be my feythe I haue holpyn as myfche as I may And mor fauyng my fylfe And therfor take hede er yt be weers Thys lett^r was begune on Fryday was vij nythe And enddyd thys day nexte afftyr Mychylmes day god kepe zow and yeue zow g'ce to do as wele as J woold ze dede And I fcharge zow be war y^t ze fette no lond to morgage for if eny auyfe zow ther to they arn not zo^r frendds be war be tymes myn auyfe &c. J trow yo^r brother wyll geve zow tydyngs in hafte.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 14.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

² Autograph: Pl. II. N^o 25.

100-

and have your good mastership, as it is told me, and deliver the evidence of Beckham, and all other things that longeth to you, that he trusteth that ye will be his good master hereafter; and he faith he will not take none new master till ye refuse his service.

Remember that your livelihood may be set in such a rule, that ye may know how it is, and what is owen to you, for by my faith, I have holpen as much as I may and more, saving myself, and therefore take heed ere it be worse.

This Letter was begun on Friday was sev'night, and ended this day next after Michaelmas day; God keep you, and give you grace to do as well as I would ye did, and I charge you beware that ye set no land to mortgage, for if any advise you thereto, they are not your friends; beware betimes mine advice, &c. and I trow your Brother will give you tidings in haste.

2 MARGARET PASTON.

Begun Friday 22d of September,
ended Saturday 30th September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER XCIII.

Sr. Ioh¹ Hewyngb'm Th' 2 Wyngf'd

Gilbert 3 Debenb'm Wil 4 brandon

and to eu'ych of yē seu'ally in

oy'is absence.

HIT is so that accordyng to such direcon as was mevid to be desired of my lords beyng heer as for such as heere bee they m^rveil gretly y^t of thynkyng and remēbring in themself y^t such offre as was made by my credence to my lorde and to fore you reported shuld have sownyd more to his pleasure and hono^r yā this his desire Nevirthelesse my lords thenke where as they wrote and desired ioyntly y^t such credence as ye remēbre myght be obs^ruyd and taken And by you refusid nowe yif they shuld assent to the desire of this direcon hit is thought in them not so to doo. For it is so fortunēd y^t dyu's of my lords from whome I brought both wrytyng and credence be at the kyngs high c[']maunde^t hastely dep[']ted unto his highnesse trustyng in god to haue heeryng in brief tyme of their hasty ayen comyng atte which tyme my lords y^t heere bee and they y^t shal come ayen shal comon and speke to gyd^r of this desire and direcon and such

This is the only Letter written to the besiegers, which appears in this collection, and the writer of this cannot be ascertained: he seems however to be a well-wisher to the Pastons by what he says in his Letter of the opinion of the Lords on this business, who likewise appear favourable to them.

He seems to hint that the extremity to which things are carried, is more the fault of these Captains to whom the Letter is addressed than that of the Duke of Norfolk, who "is noted so well disposed."

L E T T E R XCVII.

(To) Sir John ¹Heveningham, Thomas ²Wingfield, Gilbert ³Debenham, William ⁴Brandon, and every of them severally in others absence.

IT is so, that according to such direction as was moved to be desired of my Lords being here, as for such as here be they marvel greatly thereof, thinking and remembering in themselves that such offer as was made by my credence to my Lord, and tofore you reported, should have founded more to his pleasure and honour than this his desire; nevertheless my Lords think, whereas they wrote and desired jointly that such credence, as ye remember, might be observed and taken, and by you refused, now if they should assent to the desire of this direction, it is thought in them not so to do, for it is so fortunèd that divers of my Lords, from whom I brought both writing and credence, be at the King's high commandment hastily departed unto his highness; trusting in God to have hearing in brief time of their hasty again coming, at which time my Lords that here be, and they that shall come again, shall commune and speak together of

¹ Sir John Heveningham, knight and banneret, was a descendant of an ancient family situated at the town of Heveningham, in Suffolk; his son Thomas became owner of the estate at Ketteringham, in Norfolk, where this family continued for several generations.

² Sir Thomas Wingfield was a younger son either of Sir Robert or Sir John Wingfield, of Letheringham, in Suffolk.

³ Sir Gilbert Debenham, knight, was descended of an ancient and knightly family in the County of Suffolk.

⁴ Sir William Brandon married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Wingfield, and was ancestor to Charles Brandon, afterwards Duke of Suffolk.

this

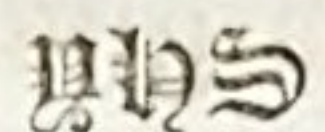
anfwere as they geve and make fhall be fent unto you than with
hafte poffible Ovir y^{is} me thenkith for yo^r excufe of burden and
charge fuch as I hier will be leid vnto you concernyng the grete
werks y^t dailly be and ar at the Man^r of Caftre yif ye thenk y^t
god fhuld haue pleasir and alfo the kyng oure fou^reign lorde And
y^t my feide lords fhuld thenk in you gode avife or fad and y^t ye
entendid to avoide the fheddyng of Criftyn blode and the deftruc-
con of the kyngs liege p[']ple y^t at yo^r politik labo^r and wifedome
ye myght bryng my lord to thabftynence of Warre And a Trieux
to be had and Contynued vnto tyme of the ret[']orn of my feid
lords or els knowlege of their entent Certifieng you for trouth
that y^r be meffengers fent vnto my feid lords w^t lrez of fuch
Anfwere as I had of you to yo^r defire to gyd^r knowyng Certainly
y^t y['] fhall be haftey relacon of y['] entents in the p[']mifis which an-
fwers ye fhall haue atte ferthift by Monday cometh fevenyght
Ferthirmore lettyng you wit y^t I und[']ftond for certein y^t my
lords y^t be heere efchewe for fuch incōuenienfe y^t myght fall to
Conclude any anfwere by yē felf confideryng y^t my credence
was geven by all the lords prayng you as fhall be doon to the
conti[']aunce of y^{is} trieux aforefaid y^t I may be acerteyned or yif
at this houre ye Coude yit thenk my credence refonable and ho-
no^rable to be accepted and taken fendith me woorde in wrytyng
from you by my f[']v[']nt bryng of this al delaies leid aparte for I
acertein you as he y^t owe you f[']uice I was and yit am gretly
blamed for my long taryng w^t you for dyu's of my lords taried
heere

this desire and direction, and such answer as they give and make shall be sent unto you then with haste possible. Over this me thinketh for your excuse of burden and charge, such as I hear will be laid unto you, concerning the great works that daily be and are at the manor of Caister, if ye think that God should have pleasure, and also the King our sovereign Lord, and that my said Lords should think in you good advice or sad, and that ye intended to avoid the shedding of christian blood, and the destruction of the King's liege people, that at your politic labour and wisdom ye might bring my Lord to the abstinence of war, and a truce to be had and continued unto time of the return of my said Lords, or else knowledge of their intent; certifying you for truth that there be messengers sent unto my said Lords with Letters of such answer as I had of you and your desire together, knowing certainly that there shall be hasty relation of their intents in the premises, which answers ye shall have at furthest by Monday cometh sev'night; furthermore letting you weet that I understand for certain that my Lords that be here eschew, for such inconvenience that might fall, to conclude any answer by themselves, considering that my credence was given by all the Lords, praying you, as shall be done to the continuance of this truce aforesaid, that I may be ascertained, or if at this hour ye could yet think my credence reasonable and honourable to be accepted and taken, send me word in writing from you by my servant, bringer of this, all delays laid apart; for I ascertain you as he that owe you service, I was and yet am greatly blamed for my long tarrying with you, for divers of my Lords tarried here
for

heere for me by thassent of al my lords leng^r yā they wold haue don to know myn Answere and guydyng from you And ovir this I certyfie you y^t ye cannot make my lords heere to thenk y^t yif y^r be incōuēnient or myshief murdre or Manflaut^r had or don but and yo^r Wills and entents were to the Contr[']ye my lord is notid so well disposid y^t w^t oute yo^r grete abette^t he neiy^r will doo nor assent to non such thyng prayng you y^rfor as yo^r frende to remēbre wele yo^r self and so to rule you as my lords may haue in tyme to Come knowlege of yo^r more sadd disposicon yā as yit I feele yey thenk in you And how y^t my lords note fū of you Iames Hobert beyng of my lords Counfel can enfo[']me you Wherefor for godds sake remēbr you and delyu^r my f^rv[']nt And yif ye thenk my first credence or this adu[']tisement shal be taken to effect yā I pray you y^t my f^rv[']nt brynger hereof may haue sure condyte to speke w^t John Paston and to report to h^y these direcons and vpon y^t to delyu^r hym a bill certifyng y^e same.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A radiated Star of Sixteen Points,
having  in the Centre.

Pl. VIII. N^o 5.

LET.

for me, by the assent of all my Lords, longer than they would have done, to know my answer and guiding from you; and over this I certify you that ye cannot make my Lords here to think that if there be inconvenience or mischief, murder or manslaughter had or done, but and (*if*) your wills and intents were to the contrary, my Lord is noted so well disposed, that without your great abetment he neither will do nor assent to none such thing; praying you, therefore, as your friend to remember well yourself, and so to rule you, as my Lords may have, in time to come, knowledge of your more sad (*grave*) disposition than as yet I feel they think in you; and how that my Lords note some of you, James Hobart, being of my Lord's counsel, can inform you, wherefore for God's sake remember you, and deliver my servant, and if ye think my first credence, or this advertisement shall be taken to effect, then I pray you that my servant, bringer hereof, may have sure conduct to speak with John Paston, and to report to him these directions, and upon that to deliver him a bill certifying the same.

London,

September, 1469.

9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XCIIII.

Caystr yelded

J. P.

RYGH T werchepfull S^r I recomand me on to yow. And as for the ferteunte of the delyu^rance of Cast^r John Chapman can tell yow how y^t we wer enforfyd therto as well as myself. As for Iohn Chapman and hys iij felaws I haue p^rueyd that they be payid ache of them xl^s w^t the mony yt they had of yow and Dawbeney And y^t is J now for the feson that they haue don yow seruys J pray yow geue them ther thank for by my trowthe they haue as well deseruyd it as eny men y^t eu^r bare lyue but as for mony ye ned not to geue hem w^t owt ye wyll for they be plesyd w^t ther wagys Wryttyll promysyd me to send yow the ferteunte of the apoyntement we wer for lak of vetayl gonepoudyr menys herts lak of fuerte of rescwe dreuyn therto to take apoyntement if ye wyll y^t I come to yow send me woord and I shall peruey me for to tery w^t yow a ii or iij dayis by my trowthe the rewardyng of fychy folkys as hathe ben w^t me dwryng the sege hathe putt me in gret danger for the monye God p^rserue yow and J pray yow be of good cher tyll J spek w^t yow and J trust to God to ese yo^r hert in some thynggys.

J. Paston.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

L E T

On reading this Letter no one can withhold the praise due to John Paston as a brave foldier, and a kind and generous master, and at the same time wishing that he and his companions had been able to have kept possession of Caister; the noble manner in which
he

L E T T E R XCVIII.

Caister yielded. J. P.

To Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, and as for the certainty of the deliverance of Caister, John Chapman can tell you how that we were enforced thereto, as well as myself; as for John Chapman and his three fellows, I have purveyed that they be paid each of them forty shillings, with the money that they had of you and Dawbeney; and that is enough for the season that they have done you service; I pray you give them their thank, for by my troth they have as well deserved it as any men that ever bear life, but as for money ye need not to give them without ye will, for they be pleased with their wages.

Writtil promised me to send you the certainty of the appointments, we were fore lack of victuals (*and*) gunpowder, men's hearts lack of surety of rescue (*were*) driven thereto to take appointment.

If ye will that I come to you, send me word, and I shall purvey me for to tarry with you a two or three days; by my troth the rewarding of such folks as hath been with me during the siege, hath put me in great danger for the money; God preserve you, and I pray you be of good cheer till I speak with you, and I trust to God to ease your heart in some things.

JOHN PASTON.

September, 1469. 9 E. IV.

he speaks of his companions, interest us both in his and their favour; these are the same four soldiers that his brother Sir John had so particularly recommended to him in his Letter dated November 9, 1468.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

L E T T E R XCIX.

To my mast^r Sr

John Paston in Flettstret.

RYGH T worchepfull Sr J recomand on to you prayyng yow that ye wyll in all hast send me word how y^t ye wyll y^t Sr John Style John Pampyng W. Mylsent Nycolas Mondonet T. tomson shall be rwlyd and whedyr y^t they shall sek hem newe seruyfys or not and mathewe bedford also for he hathe be w^t me y^{is} seshō and is fro my modyr And if so be y^t ye wyll haue thes to abyde w^t yow or eny of them send word whyche y^t they be for betwyx thys and halowmas my modyr is agreyd that they shall haue met and drynk of hyr for fyche a ferteyn wekly as my modyr and yu and J can acord when we met not w^t stādīg if ye kowd get Barney or eny of thes seyde folkys whyche y^t ye wyll not kepe eny seruyse in the mene seshon it wer more worchep for yow then to put them from yow lyek masterles hondys For by my trowthe they ar as good menys bodys as eny leue and specyally Sr John Style and Iohn Pampyng And I wer of power to kepe them and all thes befor rehersyd by trowthe they shold neuer depert fro me whyll I leveyd if ye send me word that J shall come to yow to london for to Comon w^t yow of eny mater so god help me I haue neythyr mony to Com up w^t nor for to tery w^t yow when J am ther but if ye send me some for by my trowthe thes werkys haue causyd me to ley owt
for

L E T T E R XCIX.

To my Master Sir John Paston, in Fleet-street.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend (*me*) unto you, praying you that ye will in all haste send me word how that ye will that Sir John Styll, John Pamping, William Milisent, Nicholas Maudent, (*and*) T. Tomson shall be ruled, and whether that they shall seek them new services, or not; and Matthew Bedford also, for he hath been with me this season, and is from my mother; and if so be that ye will have these to abide with you, or any of them, send word which that they be, for betwixt this and Hallowmas my mother is agreed that they shall have meat and drink of her for such a certain weekly as my mother and ye and I can accord when we meet, notwithstanding if ye could get Berney, or any of these said fellows, which that ye will not keep, any service in the mean season, it were more worship for you than to put them from you like masterless hounds, for by my troth they are as good men's bodies as ever live, and specially Sir John Still and John Pamping; and (*if*) I were of power to keep them and all these before rehearsed, by troth they should never depart from me while I lived.

If ye send me word that I shall come to you to London for to commune with you of any matter, so God help me, I have neither money to come up with, nor for to tarry with you when I am there, but if (*unless*) ye send me some, for by my troth these works have caused me to lay out for you better than ten or
twelve

for yow bettyr then x or xij li besyd y^t money y^t J had of my
modyr whyche is abowt on viij li god amend defowts but y^{is} I
warant yow w^t out y^t it be Mathew whyche ye sent woord by
Iohn Threshher that ye wold haue to awayt on yow ther is no
man y^t was hyryd for the tyme of thys sege that wyll axe yow
a peny. Also J pray yow send downe acomandment to Stut-
vylle or to some awdyter to take acomptys of dawbneys byllys
for hys executors ar fore callyd upon for to admynyst^r by y^e
bythe byshop or ellys he seythe that he wyle seqwest^r Dawbeney
set in hys dett that ye owt hym xij li and x^s whedyr it be so or
nowt hys byllys of hys owne hand wyll not lye for he mad hys
byllys clere or then the sege Com abowt us. As for the euydence
of bekh'm my modyr sent to Calle for hem. And he sent hyr
woord that he wold make hys acompts and delyur^r the Euydence
and all to gedyr. My modyr hathe sent to hym ayen for hem
thys day if she sped they shall be sent to yow in all hast or ellys
and ye send for me J shall bryng hem w^t me send my modyr
and me word who ye wyll y^t haue the rwyll of yo^r lyuelod her
in thys Contre and in what forme y^t it shall be delt w^t. J wyll
not make me mastyrfast w^t my lord of Norff. nor w^t non othyr
tyle J speke w^t yow and ye thynk it be to be don get me a mastyr.
Dell corteyfly w^t the qwen and y^t felawshep and w^t Mastras

Anne

twelve pounds, besides that money that I had of my mother, which is about an eight pound ; God amend defaults, but this I warrant you, without that it be Matthew, which ye sent word by John Thresher that ye would have to await on you, there is no man that was hired for the time of this siege, that will ask you a penny.

Also, I pray you send down a commandment to Stutevylle, or to some auditor, to take accounts of Dawbeney's bills, for his Executors are fore called upon for to administer by the Bishop, or else he saith that he will sequester ; Dawbeney set in his debts that ye owed him twelve pounds and ten shillings, whether it be so or not, his bills of his own hands will not lie, for he made his bills clear, or then (*before*) the siege came about us. As for the evidence of Beckham, my mother sent to Calle for them, and he sent her word that he would make his accounts and deliver the evidence and all together.

My mother hath sent to him again for them this day ; if she speed, they shall be sent to you in all haste, or else, and (*if*) ye send for me, I shall bring them with me. Send my mother and me word who ye will that (*shall*) have the rule of your livelihood here in this country, and in what form that it shall be dealt with. I will not make me masterfast with my Lord of Norfolk, nor with none other till I speak with you ; and ye think it be to be done, get me a master.

Deal courteously with the Queen and that fellowship, and with

Anne Hawte ¹ for Wappys tyll J spek w^t zow. Wretyn on
Seynt feythys euyn.

³ J. Paston.

by sent George J and my felawshap stand in fer of my lord
of Norff. men for we be thret fore not w^tstandyng the same gardys
y^t my felawshap haue as for me J haue non nor non of yo^r how-
fold men nor non wyll haue it wer ² shame to take it.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The advice given to Sir John Paston by his brother relative to his servants, who had faithfully served him during the siege, &c. shews the goodness of his heart, and interests the reader in wishing that he had been of ability to have retained them himself.

It seems odd that a man who had so lately commanded a garrison against the forces of the Duke of Norfolk, should, so immediately after the surrender of the place, have any thoughts of engaging himself in his grace's service, as it fully appears by this Letter that J. Paston had.

L E T T E R C.

*To Mastr Syr Iohn
Paston Knyght.*

RYGH^T worchepfull Syr J recomand me to you &c. It is
so y^t thys day ther Cam A good felaw to me whyche may
not be dyscou'yd and let me wet that my lord of Norff Consayll
hathe this Crystmas gotyn the two wydows whows husbands
wer slayn at y^e sege of Castr and have hem bowndyn in a gret
some y^t they shall swe a peel ayenst me and syche as wer ther
w^t

Mistress Anne Hawte ¹ for wappys till I speak with you. Writ-
ten on Saint Faith's Even.

³ JOHN PASTON.

By Saint George I and my fellowship stand in fear of my
Lord of Norfolk's men, for we be threatened fore, notwith-
standing the safeguards that my fellowship have; as for me I
have none, nor none of your household men, nor none will
have; it were ² shame to take it.

Thursday, 5 October,
1469. 9 E. IV.

We learn from it however, that, in disputes of this kind, whenever the cause of dis-
pute was ended, all animosity ceased, and the different parties forgot they had so lately
been enemies.

We find a great deal of similar behaviour between the partizans of the White and Red
Rose, during the civil wars of this distant period.

¹ This expression "for wappys" I do not understand.

² J. Paston's honour and courage are apparent from his thinking a safeguard shameful.

³ Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 12. Seal, a Fleur-de-llys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N° 22.

L E T T E R C.

To Master Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, &c. it is
so that this day there came a good fellow to me which
may not be discovered, and let me weet that my Lord of Nor-
folk's counsel hath this Christmas gotten the two widows, whose
husbands were slain at the siege of Caister, to have them bound
in a great sum that they shall sue an appeal against me and such

w^t me w^tin the plase and they be bownd also y^t they shall relese no man w^tin the apell namyd tyll fyche tyme as my lord of Norff wyll lycence them. Itm, the cawse is thys as it is told me by dyv^rs that ye meke no more swte to my Lord for yo^rself then ye do, and therfor they do y^e wors to me for yo^r sake.

It' as for my Comyng up to london so god help me and J may chese J Com not ther for argent me fawlt w^tout apell or an Jnkыр of som specyall mater of yo^r cawse it. It' J pray yow remēbyr Caleys for J am put out of wagys in thys Contre It' J pray yow send me some tydys how the world gothe ad Confortandū stomacū It' ye must puruey anewe Atorny in thys Contre as for me for o^r maters and clamore is to gret and our purse and wytte to flendyr but J wyle Rubbe on as long as J maye bothe w^t myn owne and other menys y^t wyle do for me tyll better pefe be Wretyn thys Sat^rdaye at Norwyche.

J. P.

11 ½ by 8.

Paper Mark,
Bull's head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

Two men having been killed during the siege at Caister, the Duke of Norfolk's counsel instigate their widows to lodge an appeal for the murder against John Paston and others. An appeal is an accusation of a murderer by a person who had interest in the person killed, as the wife had interest in the life of her husband, and must be brought within a year and day after the fact committed; and in this appeal of death the King cannot pardon the Defendant.

The

LET

as were there with me within the place, and they be bound also that they shall release no man within the appeal named till such time as my Lord of Norfolk will license them.

Item, the cause is this; as it is told me by divers, that ye make no more suit to my Lord for yourself then ye do, and therefore they do the worse to me for your sake.

Item, as for my coming up to London, so God help me, and (*if*) I may choose I come not there for, argent me faut, without an appeal or an Inkyr (*q?* *inquiry*) of some special matters of yours cause it. Item, I pray you remember Calais, for I am put out of wages in this country.

Item, I pray you send me some tidings how the world goeth ad confortandum stomachum.

Item, ye must purvey a new Attorney in this country, as for me, for our matters and clamour is too great, and our purse and wit too slender; but I will rub on as long as I may both with mine own and other means that will do for me till better peace be. Written this Saturday at Norwich.

JOHN PASTON.

Saturday,
December or January,
1469. 9 E. IV.

The latter part of this Letter contains Latin, French, and English, by which we may judge how liberally J. Paston had been educated. He seems likewise in good spirits, though threatened with this appeal.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 21.

LETTER CII.

*To my Ryght worchepfull
brodyr Syr John Paston Knyght
be thys delyuryd.*

RYGHTE worchepfull Syr J recomand me to yow in my best wyse, lyekyth yow to wet that I have thys day delyu'yd' yo' mantyll yo' Raye gowne and yo' Crosbowys w' telers and wyndas and yo' normandy byll to Kerby to bryng w' hym to london. Jt' in eny wyse and ye can axe the probate of my fadyrs wyll to be geuyn yow w' the bargayn y' ye make w' my lord of Cant'bery and J can thynk that ye may haue it and as soone as it is preuyd ye or J may haue a lettyr of mynystracyon up on the same and A qwetance of my lord Card'nalle euyn foorth w' and thys wer on of the best bargaynys that ye mad thys ij yer J enswyr yow and he may make yow Aqwetance or get yow on of the bysheop of Wynchestyr for Sr John Fastolfys Goodys also and in my reson thys wer lyght to be browght a bowght w' the same bargayn And ye p'pose to bargayn w' hym ye had need to hye yow for it is told me that my lord of Norff. wyl entyr in to it hastily and if he so doo it is the wers for yow and it wyll Cawse them to profyr the lesse fyluyr Jt' J pray yow send me some secret tydygs of

As this Letter contains a variety of matter I have given it to the reader. The bargain with the Archbishop was I suppose relative to the expences attending the probate of the will, &c.

It seems extraordinary that the Norfolk family should speak favourably of J. Paston, and yet pursue the appeal against him for murder.

the

L E T T E R CI.

*To my Right worshipful Brother Sir John Paston, Knight;
be this delivered.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you in my best wife. Liketh it you to weet that I have this day delivered your mantle, your ¹ray gown, and your cross-bows with telers and windlafs, and your Normandy bill to Kerby to bring with him to London.

Item in any wise and (*if*) ye can, ask the probate of my father's will to be given you with the bargain that ye make with my Lord of Canterbury, and I can think that ye may have it, and as soon as it is proved ye or I may have a Letter of Administration upon the same, and an acquittance of my Lord Cardinal even forthwith; and this were one of [the best bargains that ye made this two year I assure you; and he may make you acquittance, or get you one of the Bishop of Winchester for Sir John Fastolf's goods also, and in my reason this were light to be brought about with the same bargain; and (*if*) ye purpose to bargain with him ye had need to hie you, for it is told me that my Lord of Norfolk will enter into it hastily, and if he so do, it is the worse for you, and it will cause them to proffer the less silver.

Item, I pray you send me some secret tidings of the likelihood

His device to interrupt the keeping of the Court at Saxthorp deserves notice, and shews the plain dealing of the times.

¹ This means a gown made of cloth that was never either coloured or dyed.

the lyklyed of the world by the next messenger that Comyth between that J may be eythyr myryer or ellys mor fory then I am and also y^t I may gwyd me ther aftyr Jt' as for S^r R. Wyngfeld J can get no x li of hym but he seyth y^t J shall haue the fayirest harneys that I can bye in london for fyluyr but money can J non get I can not yet make my pesse w^t my lord of Norff. nor my lady by no meane yet eu'y man tellyth me that my lady seyth pafsȳgly well of me allweys notw^tstandȳg I trowe y^t they wyll swe the apell thys term yet ther is no man of us Jndytyd but if it wer doon a for the crowners er then we Cam owte of y^e plase ther is now but iij men in it and the bryggs alwey drawyn. No mor but god lāt yow myn her ² Wretyn the Twyfsday next aftyr seȳt Agnet y^e ³ fyrst.

⁴ J. P.

Jt. yestyrday W. Gornay entryd in to Saxthorp and ther was he kepȳg of a coort and had the tenūts attounyd to hym but er the coort was all doon I cam thedyr w^t a man w^t me and no more and ther befor hym and all hys feluwsclep Gayne Bomsted &c. I chargyd the tenūts that they shold proced no ferther in ther coort upon peyn y^t myght folle of it and they lettyd for a seafen but they fye that I was not abyll to make my partye good and so they profedyd ferther and J fye that and set me downe by the stward and blottyd hys book w^t my fyngyr as he wrot, so that all
tenūts

² This sentence I wish to have explained.

³ The festival of St Agnes, the first (and the most noted of the two), was kept on the 21st of January; her second festival was on the 28th of the same month, which it is to be observed was not the octave of the former, but a distinct feast upon a different occasion,

of the world by the next messenger that cometh between, that I may be either merrier or else more sorry than I am, and also that I may guide me thereafter.

Item, as for Sir Robert Wingfield, I can get no ten pounds of him, but he saith that I shall have the fairest harness that I can buy in London for silver, but money can I none get.

I cannot yet make my peace with my Lord of Norfolk nor my Lady by no means, yet every man telleth me, that my Lady saith passingly well of me always; notwithstanding I trow that they will sue the appeal this term, yet there is no man of us indicted, but if (*unless*) it were done afore the Coroners ere then we came out of the place; there is now but three men in it, and the Bridges always drawn. No more but God lāt you mine her². Written the Tuesday next after Saint Agnes the³ first.

⁴ JOHN PASTON.

Item, yesterday W. Gornay entered into Saxthorp, and there was he keeping a Court, and had the tenants attourned to him; but ere the court was all done, I came thither with a man with me and no more, and there before him and all his fellowship, Gayne, Bomsted, &c. I charged the tenants that they should proceed no further in their court upon pain that might fall of it; and they letted for a season, but they saw that I was not able to make my party good, and so they proceeded further: I saw that and, fat me down by the steward and blotted his book with my finger as

caſion, and it is ſometimes written “Agnetis Nativitas;” but it was on account of a miracle wrought at her tomb that this ſecond feaſt was inſtituted.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 21.

tenūts afermyd that the coort was enterupte by me as in yow^r ryght and J requered them to record that ther was no pefybyll coort kept and so they feyd they wold.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 14 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's head and Star.
Pl. x. N^o 1.

L E T T E R C I I I.

*To John Paston Esquier
be this deliuered.*

I Grete you wele and fend you godds blyffing and myn letyng you wete that the woman that sewyth the Appell ageyn yo^r brother and his men is comyn to london to call ther up on And whan that she shuld come to london ther was deliu'ed her Cs for to sewe w^t so that be that J her in this countre she wull not leve it but that she shall calle ther up on such tyme as shall be to yo^r most rebuke but if ye ley the bett^r wetch she hath evill counsell and y^t wull see you gretely utt'ed and y^t ye may und^rstand be the money that was take her whan she came up and ye shuld fynd it J knowe it wele if ther myght haue you at Avāntage ther for for godds sake make diligent serge be the advyce of yo^r Counsell that ther be no neeglicens in you in this mater ner other for diffaught of labo^r and call upon yo^r brother and telle hym

he wrote, so that all the tenants affirmed that the Court was interrupted by me as in your right, and I requested them to record that there was no peaceable court kept, and so they said they would.

Tuesday,
23 January, 1469-70.
9 E. IV.

L E T T E R CII.

To John Paston, Esquire, be this delivered.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that the woman that sueth the appeal against your brother and his men is come to London to call there upon, and when that she should come to London there was delivered her an hundred shillings for to sue with, so that, by that I hear in this country, she will not leave it, but that she shall call thereupon (*at*) such time as shall be to your most rebuke, but if (*unless*) ye lay the better watch; she hath evil counsel, and that will see you greatly uttered (*outed or displayed*), and that ye may understand by the money that was taken her (*given her*) when she came up, and ye should find it, I know it well, if they might have you at advantage; therefore for God's sake make diligent search by the advice of your counsel, that there be no negligence in you in this matter nor other for default of labour, and call upon your brother, and tell him that I send him God's

hym that I fend hym godds blyssyng and myn and desire hym that he wull now a while whill he hath the lords at his entent that he seke the meanes to make an ende of his maters for his elmyfes arn gretly coraged now of late what is the cause J knowe not Also J p'y you speke to Playter that y^r may be fownd a meane y^t the shereffe or the gaderer of the ^r grene wax may be discharged of certeyn issues that renne up on Fastolf for Mariotts mater For the balyfe was at hym this weke and shuld haue streyned hym but y^t he p'mysed hym y^t he shuld w^t in this viij. days labore the meanes that he shuld be discharged or ell he must c'tent hym &c. Also J fend you be the berer her of closed in this lett^r v S of gold and p'y you to bey me a suger loyfe and dates and Almaunds and send it me hame and if ye bewar any mor money whan ye came hame J shall pait you ageyn The holy gost kepe you bothyn and deliue^r you of yo^r elmyse. Wretyn on Sent Agas day in hast.

It' I p'y you speke to Mayst^r

² Roger for my forepe for J had neu^r mor nede therof and fend it

Be

me as hastily as ye can.

³ M. D.

12 by 8 $\frac{3}{4}$

Paper Mark,

Cross Keys.

Pl. xxvii. N^o 13.

This Letter contains but little worthy the Reader's attention; I have printed it only to shew the means that were laboured by the enemies of the Pastons to prosecute this appeal.

U E U

bleffing and mine, and defire him that he will now awhile, while he hath the Lords at his intent, that he feek the means to make an end of his matters, for his enemies are greatly couraged now of late; what is the caufe I know not.

Alfo, I pray you fpeak to Playters that there may be found a mean that the Sheriff or the gatherer of the ¹ Green-wax may be difcharged of certain iffues that ran upon Fastolf for Maryot's matter, for the bailiff was at him this week, and fhould have diftrained him, but that he promifed him that he fhould within this eight days labour the means that he fhould be difcharged, or elfe he muft content him, &c.

Alfo, I fend you by the bearer hereof, clofed in this Letter, five fhillings of gold, and pray you to buy me a fugar-loaf, and dates, and almonds, and fend it me home, and if ye beware (*lay out*) any more money, when ye come home I fhall pay it you again; the Holy Ghoft keep you both, and deliver you of your enemies. Written on Saint Agas (*Agatha's*) day, in hafte.

Item, I pray you fpeak to Mafter ² Roger for my fyrup, for I had never more need thereof, and fend it me as haftily as ye can.

By

³ MARGARET PASTON.

Monday,

5th of February, 1469-70.

9 E. IV.

¹ Estreats delivered to the Sheriff out of the Exchequer, to be levied in his county under the Seal of that Court, made in green wax, were from thence called green-wax.

² Mafter Roger was, I fuppofe, fome Leech, famous for his Syrups, &c.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25. Seal, a Fleur de Lys. Pl. XXIII. N^o 7.

L E T T E R C I I I.

*To Syr Iohn Paston Knyght
or to Thom's Stompys to delyuer
to ye seyd Syr Iohn.*

RYGH T worchepfull Syr and my specyall good brodyr I recomand me to yow And for as myche as I can not send yow good tydys ye shall haue sych as I knowe It is so y^t on Wednyfday last past ye and I, Pampyng and Edmund Broom wer endyttyd of felonye at the sessyons her in norwyche for shotyng of a gonne at Caister in August last past whyche goone slowghe two men J Pampyng and Broom as pryncypall and ye as Accesfary notw^tstandyng ¹ Townysend and ² Lomner held an oppynyon that the v^rdytt is voyd for ther wer ij of thenqwest that wold not agre to thendytment and in as myche as they ij wer agreyd in othyr maters and not in that and that they two wer not dyschargyd fro the remnant at sych tyme as that v^rdyth of yowyr endytmet was gouyn ther oppynyon is that all the v^rdyght is voyde as well of all othyr maters as of yowyr whedyr ther oppynyon be good or not J can not det^rmyne nor them sylf neythyr

I pray

I have given this Letter as not only containing a case of law, but to shew the steps taken by the Duke of Norfolk's counsel, to harrafs and distres Sir John Paston and his party, for the death of two men who, I presume, were shot by those in the place during the siege of Caister.

¹ It appears from this and some other Letters in this Collection, that the Townshend therein mentioned was a Lawyer.

It

L E T T E R CIII.

*To Sir John Paston, Knight, or to Thomas Stomps, to deliver to
the said Sir John.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir, and my special good brother, I recommend me to you; and for as much as I cannot send you good tidings, ye shall have such as I know.

It is so, that on Wednesday last past ye and I, Pamping and Edmund Broom were indicted of Felony at the Sessions here in Norwich, for shooting off a gun at Caister, in August last past, which gun slew two men, I, Pamping, and Broom as principal, and ye as accessory, notwithstanding ¹ Townshend and ² Lomner hold an opinion that the verdict is void, for there were two of the inquest that would not agree to the indictment, and in as much as they two were agreed in other matters, and not in that, and that they two were not discharged from the remnant at such time as that verdict of your indictment was given, their opinion is that all the verdict is void, as well of all other matters as of yours; whether their opinion be good or not I cannot determine, nor themselves neither.

It is therefore most probable that the person was Roger Townshend, of Lincoln's Inn, afterwards a Serjeant at Law, and by Richard III. appointed one of the Judges of the Common Pleas, in which important office he was continued by Henry VII. and knighted.

His second Son John (the issue of the elder being extinct) was ancestor to the present most noble the Marquis Townshend, of Rainham, in Norfolk.

² Lumnor was a relation of the Pastons, and his family were situated at Mannington, in Norfolk.

I pray

I pray yow let not thys mater be slept for I can thynk that my lord of Norff Consaylle wyll cawse the wedows to tak an apell and to remeue it up in to the kyngs benche at the begyn̄g of thys term Townysend hathe promysyd me that he shall be at london on twyfsday next com̄g and then ye may comon w^t hym in that mater and take hys auyse It' townysend and lemnor thynk that and ye haue good Consayll ye may Justyfye the kep- yng of the plase for the pefyhyll possessyon that ye haue had in it mor then iij yeer but in conclusyon all thys is doo for nowght ellys but for to enforse yow to take a dyreccyon w^t my lord of Norff. I undyrstood by R. Lothewell for he and J comonyd in thys mater ryght largely betwyx hem and me Jn so myche he tellyth me that and J be at london in the wek next after Seynt Petyr at whych tyme he shall be ther hym sylf he seyth y^t my lady hathe promysyd me hyr good ladyshap and sent me woord by hym in as myche as he spak for me to hyr that she wold remēbyr myn old seruyse and for get the gret dysplefyr in fyche wyse that J shall undyrstand that the swtte y^t J haue mad to my lord hyr husbond and hyr shall torne to yo^r Auantage and myn more then we weene as yett or shall undyrstand tyll fyche tyme as I haue spokyn w^t hyr good grace and upon thys promesse J haue promysyd sothewell to meet w^t hym at london that same weeke next after seynt Petyr Wherfor I wold passygly fayne y^t ye wer in london at y^t season or nye abowght london so that J myght undyrstand at yo^r plase wher y^t I myght speke w^t yow or then I speke w^t my lady J p'pose to go to
Cant^r.

I pray you let not this matter be slept, for I can think that my Lord of Norfolk's counsel will cause the widows to take an appeal, and to remove it up into the King's Bench at the beginning of this term; Townshend hath promised me that he shall be at London on Tuesday next coming, and then ye may commune with him in that matter, and take his advice.

Item, Townshend and Lomner think that and (*if*) ye have good counsel, ye may justify the keeping of the place for the peaceable possession that ye have had in it more than three year; but in conclusion, all this is done for nought else but for to enforce you to take a direction with my Lord of Norfolk.

I understood by R. Southwell, for he and I communed in this matter right largely betwixt him and me, insomuch he telleth me that and (*if*) I be at London in the week next after Saint Peter, at which time he shall be there himself, he saith that my Lady hath promised me her good ladyship, and sent me word by him in as much as he spake for me to her, that she would remember mine old service, and forget the great displeasure, in such wise that I shall understand that the suit that I have made to my Lord her husband and her, shall turn to your advantage and mine both, more than we ween as yet, or shall understand till such time as I have spoken with her good grace; and upon this promise I have promised Southwell to meet with him at London that same week next after Saint Peter; wherefore I would passingly fain that ye were in London at that season, or nigh about London, so that I might understand at your place, where that I might speak with you or them (*before*) I speak with my Lady.

³ Cant'bery on foot thys next week w^t godds grace and so to com
to london fro thense I pray yow se y^t I be safe for Parker and
Herry Coletts mater ⁴ Sothewell told me thys that if so be y^t
ye wyll yo^r sylf ye shall haue bothe good lordshp and ladyshp
and mony or lond or both and all yo^r maters set cler what y^t he
menyth I can not sey As for all othyr maters in thys Contre I
shall do as well as I may for fawt of monye tyll J speke w^t yow
J haue many collars on as J shall tell yow when I Come No
more but god preferue yow and yo^{rs}. wretyn at Norwyche fryday
next aftyr Corpus Xpi daye.

⁵ J. P.

J ded as myche as I kowd to haue lettyd thendyttment but it
wold not be as I shall enform you and Townysend knowyth
the same.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 10 $\frac{1}{4}$.

³ On pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket, I suppose.

⁴ Richard Southwell, Esq. of Wood-Rising; he acquired this Estate by marrying Amy,
Daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wichingham, Knight.

¶ E ¶ =

I purpose to go to ³ Canterbury on foot this next week with God's grace, and so to come to London from thence.

I pray you see that I be safe for Parker's and Harry Collett's matter.

⁴ Southwell told me this, that if so be that ye will yourself, ye shall have both good lordship and ladyship, and money, or lands, or both, and all your matters set clear; what that he meaneth I cannot say.

As for all other matters in this country, I shall do as well as I may for fault (*default*) of money till I speak with you; I have many collars on, as I shall tell you when I come.

No more, but God preserve you and yours; written at Norwich, (*the*) Friday next after Corpus Christi day.

⁵ JOHN PASTON.

I did as much as I could to have let (*hindered*) the indictments, but it would not be, as I shall inform you, and Townshend knoweth the same.

Norwich, Friday,
22d of June, 1470.
10 E. IV.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21. Seal, a Fleur de Lys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N° 22.

L E T T E R CIII.

To Syr Iohn Paston

Knyght or to Thom's

Stomppys to delyuer

to the seyd syr Iohn.

AS I sent yow woord by a lettyr that Iohn Wymondh'm browght to london J Pampyng is endyghtyd of Felony and Edmund Broon as p'ncypallys and ye as axcessary for scho-tyng of agonne in Awgust last past whyche gonne kyllyd ij men and I trowe that my lord of Norff. consayll wyll make on of the wedows or bothe to fwe an apell up on the same endyghtment thys terme Wherfor I pray yow se well to thys mater that when it is fertyfyd in to the kyngys benche broom and Pampyng may haue warnyng that they may p'uey for hem self if ther Com eny capyas owght for hem Townysend can tell yow all the mater. Also ye must in eny wyse be ware for my ¹ g'unt dam and myn lady ² Anne and myn oncyll Wyll'm shall be at london w'in thes viij or x dayis And I wot well it is for nowght ellys but to make myn oncyll Wyll'm swyr of hyr lond notw'standyg she hath reryd affyn of it be for ³ goodreed the Justyse in my g'unt

The former part of this Letter gives us the same information as we received from the last, and would not have been inserted, had I not thought the account of the proceedings relative to the levying the fine worthy of notice.

The being able to produce the Copy of the Fine, shews the propriety of Margaret Paston's cautions to Sir John, respecting the great care which he ought to take of his Deeds and Writings.

L E T T E R CIV.

To Sir John Paston, Knight, or to Thomas Stomps, to deliver to the said Sir John.

AS I sent you word, by a Letter that John Wymondham brought to London. J. Pamping is indicted of Felony, and Edmund Broom as principals, and ye as accessary for shooting off a gun in August last past, which gun killed two men, and I trow that my Lord of Norfolk's counsel will make one of the widows or both, to sue an appeal upon the same indictment this term, wherefore I pray you see well to this matter, that when it is certified into the King's Bench, Broom and Pamping may have warning that they may purvey for themselves, if there come any Capias out for them; Townshend can tell you all the matter.

Also, ye must in any wise beware, for my ¹ Grandam, and mine Lady ² Anne, and mine Uncle William, shall be at London within these eight or ten days, and I wot well it is for nought else but to make mine Uncle William sure of her land; notwithstanding she hath reared (*levied*) a fine of it before ³ Goodred, the Justice, in my Grandfather's days; and my

¹ Agnes Paston, widow of Sir William Paston, the Judge.

² Anne, Daughter of Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, married William Paston, the Uncle of Sir John Paston.

³ William Goodrede was created a Serjeant at Law, in 1425, in 1431 he was appointed King's Serjeant, and in 1434 became a Justice of the King's Bench;

fadyrs dayis And my modyr tellyth me that ye haue the cople
of the same Fyne I wold auyse yow to haue it redy what so
euyr betyd I trow they wyll be the more besy abowght the same
mater because they thynk that ye dar not Com in london nor at
Westme'styr to lett them but if so be y^t ye haue not the copy of
the same Fynne look that ye spare for no cost to do serche for
itt for it wyll stand yow on hand I feell by the werkȳg thys day
seuennyght I trust to god to be forward to Caunt'bery at the
ferthest And upon Sat'day Com seuennygh J tryst to God to be
in london wherfor I pray yow leue woord at yow^r plase in Fleet-
strett wher I shall fynd yow for I p'pose not to be seyn in lon-
don tyll J haue spook w^t yow J pray yow remēbyr thes maters
for all is doon to make yow to drawe to an ende w^t thes lordys
that haue yo^r lond fro yow No more but I pray God send yow
yo^r herttys desyir in thees maters and in all othyr Wretyn at
Norwyche the Monday next aftyr Seynt Iohn Baptyst.

⁴ J. P.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

¹ Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 21. Seal, a Fleur de Lys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N^o 22.

LE C

mother telleth me that ye have the copy of the same fine, I would advise you to have it ready, whatsoever betide; I trow they will be the more busy about the same matter, because they think that ye dare not come in London nor at Westminster to let them, but if so be that ye have not the copy of the same fine, look that ye spare for no cost to do (*make*) search for it, for it will stand you on hand I feel by the working.

This day sev'night I trust to God to be forward to Canterbury at the farthest, and upon Saturday come sev'night I trust to be in London, wherefore I pray you leave word at your place in Fleet-street, where I shall find you, for I purpose not to be seen in London till I have spoken with you.

I pray you remember these matters, for all is done to make you to draw to an end with these Lords that have your land from you. No more, but I pray God send you your heart's desire in these matters and in all others. Written at Norwich, the Monday next after Saint John Baptist.

JOHN PASTON.

Norwich, Monday,
25th of June, 1470.
10 E. IV.

LET-

L E T T E R C U.

To oure welbelovid William Swan Gentilman.

R. E. By the King.

TRUSTY and welbeloved we grete you well and for soo muche as we be credibly acertayned that o^r auncient ennemyes of Fraunce and o^r outward Rebels and traitors be drawe to gadre in acorde and entende hastily to lande in o^r countre of Kent or in the p^rties y^rof ner adjonyng w^t grete might and power of Frenshemen utt^rly to destroie us and o^r true subgiетts and to subverte the comon wele of the same o^r Roy^{me}.

We straitly charge and comāunde you upon the feyth and liegeaunce y^t ye bare unto us y^t ye arredie you w^t alle the felaship ye can make and as sone as ye may undrestonde y^t thay lande in o^r said countie or nerbye that ye draw yid^r as we have commaunded oy^e our subgiетts to doo and put you in uttremost
devoir

The Original, with the King's Signature, from which this Letter is copied, is placed in a MS. Folio Volume, containing many curious original state-papers, and copies of state-papers of various dates and reigns, formerly belonging to Sir Edward Coke, and is thus endorsed in his own hand.

“Privye Seale from Ritchard y^e thyrde enhabling Mr. Swannes Auncetours to leavye
Armes.”

How he came to mistake this Signature for that of Richard III. I cannot conceive, it being so evidently R. E. Rex Edwardus, that of Edward IV. neither was there any invasion intended or expected from France, either in September 1483, in the very beginning of the reign of Charles VIII. or in the following year, when that Prince desired a safe conduct for the ambassadors, which he intended sending to England.

This Volume came into the possession of that great antiquary Sir Andrew Fountaine, Knight, and is now in the valuable Library of his Nephew and heir Brigg Price Fountaine, Esq. of Narford, in Norfolk, whence I copied the above Letter, 4th July, 1788.

This

L E T T E R CV.

To our well-beloved William Swan, Gentleman.

Rex Edwardus. By the King.

TRUSTY and well-beloved we greet you well, and for so much as we be credibly ascertained that our ancient enemies of France, and our outward rebels and traitors be drawn together in accord, and intend hastily to land in our county of Kent, or in the parts thereof near adjoining, with great might and power of Frenchmen utterly to destroy us and our true Subjects, and to subvert the common weal of the same our Realm.

We straitly charge and command you, upon the faith and liegeance that ye bear unto us, that ye arredie (*make ready*) you with all the fellowship ye can make, and as soon as ye may understand that they land in our said county or nearby, that ye draw thither, as we have commanded other our Subjects to do,

This Warrant, under the King's Signature and Privy Seal, seems to have been issued in 1470, after the escape of Edward from his confinement at Middleham Castle, and after his having defeated the Lord Wells near Stamford, when the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick, retiring into France, were reconciled to Queen Margaret, and aided by Lewis XI. meditated an invasion of England in favour of Henry VI.

This invasion they accomplished, and landed at Dartmouth in September; on their march they daily increased in numbers, when Edward, on their approach towards him and proclaiming Henry VI. was seized with such a panic that, retreating towards the seashore on the Norfolk Coast, he embarked aboard a small vessel, and after several escapes from Corsairs, &c. he landed safely in Holland, when Henry for a few months re-ascended the throne.

A William Swan is mentioned in Letter XXII. Vol. I. p. 298; but whether he is the same person here addressed does not appear.

For an exact copy of the King's Signature superscribed to this Letter, see Pl. xxiv. N^o 1.

and.

devoir w^t thaim to resiste the malice of o^r said ennemyes and traitours and if thai and ye be not of power soo to doo that thanne ye drawe you to our citie of London by which tyme we trust to be y^e in o^r owne p^rsonne or nerby And if we be not that that thanne ye do farther all ye shal bee cōmaunded by o^r Counsaile y^e upon y^e payne above said. Yeven undre oure signet at oure Citie of York the vij day of Septembr.

12 by 8 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Two pales within a lozenge shield,
surmounted by a coronet.

Pl. xxvii. N^o 9.

LETTER CIIJ.

*To hys worshipful Mast^r
Iohn Paston Esquier.*

RYGH^t wurchupfull Ser J Comaund me to your good maysterchepe &c. plese it you to understond that Redford desyryd me on your byhalfe y^t J Chuld goo and Comon w^t the womā that was the Fullars wyfe of South Walf'm which woman is now maryed to on Thom Styward dwellyng in the parysch of Seynt Gyll in Norwych which woman seyde to me that che sewyd neu^r the pele butt that she was by Sotyle Craft brought to the new in att Norwych And ther was maystr^r Southwell
and

and put you in uttermost devoir (*do your greatest endeavour*) with them to resist the malice of our said enemies and traitors; and if they and ye be not of power so to do, that then ye draw you to our city of London, by which time we trust to be there in our own person or nearby; and if we be not that, that then ye do farther all ye shall be commanded by our Council there, upon the pain above said.

Given under our Signet, at our City of York, the 7th day of September.

York, Friday,
7th of September, 1470.
10 E. IV.

L E T T E R CVI.

To his worshipful Master, John Paston, Esquire.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I commend me to your good mastership, &c. Please it you to understand that Bedford desired me, on your behalf, that I should go and commune with the woman that was the fuller's wife at South Walsham, which woman is now married to one Thomas Styward, dwelling in the parish of Saint Giles, in Norwich, which woman said to me that she sued never the appeal, but that she was by subtile craft brought to the New Inn at Norwich, and there was Master

and he entretyd hyr to be my lords wewe by the space of an hole yer next folwyn and ther to he mad hyr to be bowne in an obligacyon And whan that yer was past he desyred hyr to be my lords wedow anoyr yer And than she seyde that she had leu^r lose y^t that she had do than to lose that and meer and ther for she seyde pleyndly that she wold no mor of that Mat^r and so she toke hyr an husbond whiche is y^e seyde Thom Styward and she seyde that it was full for ageyn hyr wylle that eu^r the mat^r went so forth for she had neu^r non avayle y^{of} butt it was sewyd to hyr gret labor and losse for she had neu^r of my lords Councell but berely hyr Costs to london no mor but god haue you in hys keepyng Wretyn at Norwych the Monday next after the Fest of Seynt luke.

By your s^rvant

H. L.

8 by 5.

We here see the various artifices that had been made use of to bring forward this appeal against the Paltons, and the pains that had been taken by those who seemed to have been their friends to distress them by it.

The endeavours used to induce the widow to put herself under the Duke of Norfolk's protection, and to become his vassal, under the different titles of waive and widow, are curious, and throw some light upon the feudal system.

LCC-

Southwell, and he intreated her to be my Lord's weve (*waive*) by the space of an whole year next following, and thereto he made her to be bound in an obligation; and when that year was past, he desired her to be my Lord's widow another year; and then she said that she had lever (*rather*) lose that that she had done, than to lose that and more, and therefore she said plainly, that she would no more of that matter, and so she took her an husband, which is the said Thomas Styward; and she saith that it was full sore against her will that ever the matter went so far forth, for she had never none avail thereof, but it was sued to her great labour and loss, for she had never of my Lord's counsel but barely her costs to London. No more, but God have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, the Monday next after the feast of Saint Luke.

By your Servant

R. L.

Monday,
22d of October, 1470,
10 E. IV.

I do not exactly understand the sense in which the word weve or waive is used here, farther than it means to convey the idea of subjection.

The widow, however, chose to be her own Mistress in the second year, and to take another Husband.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 11. I cannot discover the name of the Writer from his Initials.

3 L 2.

LET-

LETTER CXXX.

*To my ryght worchepfull
modyr Margaret Paston at
Mawtby.*

RYGH T Worchepfull Modyr aftyr all humbyll recomen-
dacyons as lowely as I can I besече yow of yo^r blyffyng
pleasyt yow to wete that late yest^r nyght I cam to Norwyche
p^rposeing to haue been as thys day w^t yow at Mawtby but it is so
that I may not hold my p^rpose for he that shall pay me my
q^rter ¹ wagys for me and my retenew is in Norwyche and wayt-
yth ourly when hys money shall Com to hym it is oon Edmund
Bowen of the Cheker a specyall Frend of myn And he avyfyth
me to tery tyll the money be com lest y^t I be unpayed for who
comyth fyrst to the mylle fyrst must grynd And as I was
wryghtyng thys byll on of the gromys of my lords chambyr cam
to me and told me that my ² lady wyll be here in Norwyche to
morow at nyght towards Walsygh^m whyche shall I wot well be
a nother lett to me but I had more need to be other wyse occupyed
then to awayte on ladyse For ther is as yett J trowe no ³ sperre
that shall go over the See so evyll horfyd as I am but it is told
me that Rychard Call hathe a good horse to sell And on Iohn

The date of this Letter from J. Paston, the younger, to his Mother, cannot be certainly ascertained, though I think I may venture to fix it between 1470 and 1474.

¹ We are here informed that those who had engaged in the King's service received their pay out of the Exchequer quarterly, for themselves and their waged men.

Becher

L E T T E R CVII.

To my right worshipful Mother, Margaret Paston, at Mawteby.

RIGHT worshipful mother, after all humble recommendations, as lowly as I can, I beseech you of your blessing. Please it you to weet that late yesternight I came to Norwich, purposing to have been as this day with you at Mawteby, but it is so that I may not hold my purpose, for he, that shall pay me my quarter ¹ wages for me and my retinue, is in Norwich, and waiteth hourly when his money shall come to him; it is one Edmund Bowen of the Exchequer, a special friend of mine, and he adviseth me to tarry till the money be come, lest that I be unpaid, "for who cometh first to the mill, first must grind."

And as I was writing this bill, one of the Grooms of my Lord's Chamber came to me, and told me, that my ² Lady will be here in Norwich to-morrow at night towards Walsingham, which shall I wot well be another let to me, but I had more need to be otherwise occupied than to await on Ladies, for there is as yet I trow no ³ Spear that shall go over the sea, so evil horsed as I am, but it is told me that Richard Call hath a good horse to sell,

² Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, wife of John Mowbray, the last Duke of Norfolk of that name, was most probably on her way in pilgrimage to the Image of our Lady at Walsingham, to offer at her Shrine, and to obtain through her intercession an easy pregnancy and happy delivery. Our Lady's favours supposed to be conferred on women in the Duchess's situation, (to use J. Paston's proverb) "brought great grist to her mill" at Walsingham.

³ Horsemen armed with Spears.

Becher of Oxborough hathe an other and if it myght please yow to geve Syme leve to ryd in to that Contre at my Cost and in your name seyīg that ye wyll geue on of yo^r Sonys an horse defyrīg hym that he wyll geue yow a penyworthe for a peny And he shall and the pryse be resonabyll hold hym pleasyd w^t your payment ought of my purse thow he knowe it not or hys horse depert fro hys lands Modyr I bese yow and it may please yow to geue Syme leve to ryde on thys messlage in your name that he may be here w^t me to morow in the mornȳg be tymys for wer I onys horfyd I trowe J wer as ferforthe redy as some of my neyghborows I herd a lytyll word that ye p^poseid to be here in Norwyche thys next week I prey God it be thys week Modyr beseche yow that I may haue an answer to morow at the ferthest of thys mater and of eny other servyse that it please yow to Comand me whyche J wyll at all seasons redy to acomplyshe w^t gods grace whom J beseche to p^perve yow and yours Wretyn at Norwyche thys Wednysday in Est'n week.

By yo^r sone and seru'nt

* J. P.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 6.

* Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^o 21.

LEC

and one John Butcher of Oxborough hath another, and if it might please you to give Sym leave to ride into that country at my cost, and in your name, saying that ye will give one of your sons an horse, desiring him that he will give you a pennyworth for a penny, and he shall, and the price be reasonable, hold him pleased with your payment out of my purse, though he know it not ere his horse depart from his hands. Mother I beseech you, and (*if*) it may please you to give Sym leave to ride on this message in your name, that he may be here with me to-morrow in the morning betimes, for were I once horsed, I trow I were as far forth ready as some of my neighbours.

I heard a little word that ye purposed to be here in Norwich the next week, I pray God it be this week.

Mother, I beseech you that I may have an answer to-morrow at the farthest of this matter, and of any other service that it please you to command me, which I will at all seasons (*be*) ready to accomplish with God's grace, whom I beseech to preserve you and yours.

Written at Norwich, this Wednesday in Easter week.

By your Son and Servant

⁴ JOHN PASTON.

Norwich, Wednesday, April,
between 1470 and 1474.
10 and 14 E. IV.

9

LET-

LETTER CXXXIII.

*To ye Baillies Constables and
Chambrleyns of our Burgh' of
Eye and to eu'ch of yem.*

The duke of Suff.

FOR asmuche as Edmond lee and Iohn Barker which were waged for yo^r town to awaite upon vs in y^e kings f^rvice to lincolne feld and from yens to Excestre and ayen And for y^e feason as we be enfo^rmed yei ar not yet fully contented and paied of yeir wags Wherfore upon ye fighte herof we woll and charge y^t ye w^t oute any leng^r delay paie yem yeir hooll duties acord- ing ye couen'nts y^t ye made w^t yem And ye faille not herof as ye entende o^r pleas' W'ten at Wyngefeld y^e xxijth day of Octobr.

Suffolk.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 4.

Paper Mark.

Something like a Flower within a Circle,
surmounted by a Crofs.

Seal,

A Lion rampant, double queuee.

The wages due to these men was for their attendance, under the command of the Duke of Suffolk, at the battle of Lincoln Field, usually called the Battle of Stamford, where the King, in the beginning of March 1469-70, obtained a complete victory over the rebel forces, commanded by the son of Lord Welles, who, being there taken prisoner, was a few days after beheaded.

On the news of this defeat the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick repaired to Exeter, from thence they went to Dartmouth, and there, about May, embarked for France.

We find by this Letter that the King's army followed them to Exeter.

LET

L E T T E R CVIII.

To the Bailiffs, Constables, and Chamberlains of our Borough of Eye, and to every each (one) of them.

The Duke of Suffolk.

FOR as much as Edmund Lee and John Barker, which were waged for your town, to await upon us in the King's service to Lincoln Field, and from thence to Exeter and (*back*) again; and for that season, as we be informed, they are not yet fully contented and paid of their wages; wherefore, upon the sight hereof, we will and charge that ye without any longer delay pay them their whole duties according (*to*) the covenant that ye made with them, and ye fail not hereof, as ye intend our pleasure. Written at Wingfield, the 22d day of October.

SUFFOLK.

Wingfield,
Monday, 22d of October,
1470. 10 E. IV.

This Letter by the date appears to have been written just about the time of Edward's leaving the kingdom, when Henry VI. was re-instated on the throne, unless the payment of the men had been longer delayed, if so, it was not written till after Edward's return and re-accession.

John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, died in 1491.

Autograph. Pl. VII. N^o 3.

N. B. As this Letter was placed here after the Drawings for the Plates were finished, neither the Seal nor the Paper-Mark are engraved; they shall be added to the next Plates.

L E T T E R C J I I.

*To Iohn Paston
Esquyere in haste.*

BROTHER I comand me to yow praying yow y^t thys be yow guydyng if other Folkys wy agree to y^e fame y^t M. Roos olde ¹ Kneuet ye and the worthypfullest y^t wyll do for owr sake as Arblast^r Iohn Gyneye ² Wodhows and al other gentelmen y^t at the daye wyll be in Norwyche y^t ye all holl as on bodye Come to ged^r y^t my lorde of Oxenforde maye ondrestande y^t som strenkethethe restyth ther by whyche if it be well handely and proue in the handely I trow Heydonnes parte woll be but an easy comparyson. Neu^rthelesse ye than most ye be war of on Payn and that is thys Heydon wyll of ³ Crafte fende amonge yow for case vj or mor w^t Harneyse For to sclandre yowr felawshchep w^t seyng that they be ryotous peple and natt of substance requer the gentelmen aboue wretyn that if any men be in Norwyche of the Contre that ber any suche harneyse to do them leue it or any glystryng byll the meyr and Sitefeynes of Nowyche wher wonte to haue asertayne in ⁴ harneyse of men of the town

It appears plainly from the contents of this Letter, that it was written during the short time that Henry VI. was in possession of the throne.

The Earl of Oxford was coming to Norwich to see how the County of Norfolk stood affected to the present change in the government, and most probably to be present at the election of Members to be returned for that City, as well as for the County, to serve in the ensuing Parliament.

It is a most curious Letter, and gives us a very particular description both of the parties and of the politics of the times.

L E T T E R CIX.

To John Paston, Esq. in haste.

BROTHER, I commend me to you, praying you that this be your guiding, if other folks will agree to the same, that master Roos, old ¹Knivet, ye, and the worshipfullest that will do for our sake, as Arblaſter, John Gyney, ²Wodehouſe, and all other gentlemen, that at the day will be in Norwich, that ye all whole as one body come together, that my Lord of Oxford may underſtand that ſome ſtrength reſteth thereby, which if it be well handled and prove in the handling, I trow Heydon's party will be but an eaſy compariſon; nevertheless, ye then muſt ye beware of one pain, and that is this, Heydon will of ³craft ſend among you per caſe (*probably*) fix or more with harneſs for to ſlander your fellowſhip, with ſaying that they be riotous people, and not of ſubſtance; require the gentlemen above written that if any men be in Norwich of the country that bear any ſuch harneſs to do (*make*) them leave it, or any glistering bill (*pole-axe*).

The Mayor and Citizens of Norwich were wont to have a certayne (*a number*) of men in ⁴harneſs of men of the town to

¹ John Knevet, Esq. of Buckenham Caſtle.

² Sir Edward Wodehouſe, Knight, anceſtor to the preſent Sir John Wodehouſe, Bart. of Kimberley, in Norfolk.

³ This is a curious ſcheme, and worthy the conductor of a modern election conteſt.

⁴ Theſe ſeem to be the ſame men as are now continued at Elections for the City, under the denomination of Staveſmen; they are generally the promoters, if not the beginners, of all riots, and were at the laſt conteſted Election, in 1787, very prudently, and to the honour of the magiſtracy, diſcontinued.

to y^e nombr of ij or iij or v^e whyche if they now do in lyke case those wole owe bett^r wyll to M Roos and yow yⁿ to other Folkys and if it be so y^t the thowt nat to haue non fuche at thys tyme I thynke the Meyr woll do it at y^e request of M Roos and yow if lak of tyme Cawse it not. It'm be well war of Clopton for he hathe avysed my lorde to be all to gydre rewled by Heydon in so moche he hathe reportyd that all thyng and all materys of my lordes and in all the Contre scholde guydyd by Heydon if Choptō or Hygham or lowes Iohn be besy prese in to my lorde byfor the For the be no Suff. matrys and tell the Raylyng Prayng them not to cawse my lorde to owe hys fauor For the plefer to som Folkys ther present For if my lorde fauoryd or theye owther by lykelyed my lorde and they myght lose vj tyme as many Frenedes as he scholde wynn by ther meanes Also if ye Cowde fynde the meanes M R. and ye to Cawse Meyr in my lordes ere to telle hym thow he scholde bynde my lorde to Cancell that the loue of the Contre and syte restyth on owr syde and that other Folkys be not belouyd ner neuyr wer thys wolde do nonn harme if it be soo y^t all thyng go ^s olyver currant w^t mor to remembre that ther is owt of that Contre that be nat at Norw. besyde me that be ryght worshypfull and as worshypfull as few be lengyng to Norff. that woll and schall do my lorde fuyse the rather For my sake and Mast^r Rossys and the rather if my lorde femyth nat moche thyng to Heydon guydyng Also the godely menes wherby ye best can entrete my Cosyn S^r W Calthorpe at the seyde Day wse them to cawe hym if itt wyll be

^s This appears to be the word in the original, but the meaning of it I shall be glad to have explained.

the number of two or three, or five hundred, which if they now do in like case, these will owe better will to Master Roos and you than to other folks; and if it be so that they thought not to have none such at this time, I think the Mayor will do it at the request of Master Roos and you, if lack of time cause (*prevent*) it not.

Item, be well ware of Clopton, for he hath advised my Lord to be altogether ruled by Heydon, in so much he hath reported that all things and all matters of my Lord's, and in all the country should (*be*) guided by Heydon; if Clopton or Hygham or Lewis John be busy, press into my Lord before them, for they be no sufficient matters, and tell the railing; praying them not to cause my Lord to owe his favour for their pleasure to some folks there present; for if my Lord favour or they either, by likelihood my Lord and they might lose six times as many friends as he should win by their means.

Also, if ye could find the means, Master Roos and ye, to cause (*the*) Mayor in my Lord's ear to tell him, though he should bind my Lord to conceal (*it*), that the love of the country and city resteth on our side, and that other folks be not beloved nor never were; this would do none harm.

If it be so that all things go ^solyver current, with more to remember that there is out of that country, that be not at Norwich beside me, that be right worshipful, and as worshipful as few belonging to Norfolk, that will and shall do my Lord service, the rather for my sake and Master Roos's, and the rather if my Lord remit not much thing to Heydon's guiding.

Also, the goodly means whereby ye best can entreat my cousin Sir William Calthorpe at the said day w^{se} (*advise*) them to cause
him,

to Come ye in hys Companye and he in yow in cheff at yow cheff schew and M Roos and he in Company latyng my feyde cosyn wete y^t I tolde hym ones y^t I scholde meue hym of a thyng I trostyn scholde be encreffyng bothe to hys honor and well I sende yow a lettyr Com to Norwyche by lyklyed to yow on monday last past it Come some what the lattre for J wende haue dyed nat longe by foer it Also I receyued on from yow by M blomvyle yist^r euyn tell my Cosyn W. ⁶ Yeluton that he may not appyr of a whylle in no wyse I trow my Cosyn hys fadr schall sende hym worde of the same do y^t ye can secretly that my lorde be nat heuy lorde on to hym it is undrestande y^t itt is doon by the craffte off Heyd^r he gate hym in to that offyce to haue to be ageyn me and now he sethe that he hathe don all y^t he can ageyn me and now may doo No mor now he wolde remeve hym the dayeis Comen y^t he fastyd the euyn for as an holye yonge monke fastyd mor than all the Couent afr that for hys holynesse and Fastyng hopyd to be Abbott whyche aft^rwarde was Abbott than leste he hys Abstynens seyng the daye was Come y^t he fast the euyn for.

Brother I p'y yow recomand me to my lord of Oxford gode lordshyp and wher as I told my lord that I shuld haue awayted uppon hys lordshyp in Norff. I wold that I myght soo haue don leu^r then a hundred li but in godefeth thos maters that I told my lord trewed shold lette me war not fynyshed tyl yesterday wherfor yf that Cause and also syn Halowmasse eu'y other day myst not hold uppe myn heed nor yet may in semech that fythen the

⁶ William Yelverton had been in the interest of Edward IV. and therefore durst not appear till he had secured a pardon from the present government.

him, if it will be, to come ye in his company, and he in yours in chief at your chief shew, and Master Roos and he in company, letting my said cousin weet that I told him once that I should move him of a thing I trusted should be increasing both to his honour and weal.

I sent you a Letter, which came to Norwich by likelihood to you on Monday last past, it came somewhat the later, for I wend (to) have died not long before it.

Also, I received one from you by Master Blomvile yester even. Tell my Cousin W. ⁶ Yelverton that he may not appear of a while in no wise, I trow my Cousin his Father shall send him word of the same; do that ye can secretly, that my Lord be not heavy Lord unto him; it is understood that it is done by the craft of Heydon, he gat him into that office to have to be against me, and now he saith that he hath done all that he can against me, and now may do no more, now he will remove him.

The day is come that he fasted the even for, as an holy young Monk fasted more than all the Convent, after that for his holiness and fasting hoped to be Abbot, which afterward was Abbot, then left he his abstinence, saying, "the day was come that he fasted the even for."

Brother, I pray you recommend me to my Lord of Oxford's good Lordship; and whereas I told my Lord that I should have awaited upon his Lordship in Norfolk, I would that I might so have done lever (*rather*) than an hundred pound; but in good faith these matters that I told my Lord (*I*) trowed should let me, were not finished till yesterday, wherefore of that cause, and also since Holymas every other day must not hold up mine head,

nor

seyd day in Westm^r Halle and in other place I haue goon w^t a
 staffe as a Goste as men sayd more lyke that I rose owte of the
 erth then owte of a fayr laydys bedd and yet am in lyke Case
 sauynge I am in gode hope to Amende Wherfor I beshyche hys
 lordshyp to pardon me and at a nother tyme J shall make dobell
 Amends For by my trouth a man Cowyd not haue hyred me for
 v Mark w^t so gode will to haue ryden in to Norff. as to haue at
 thys feason ther to haue awaytyd in hys lordshyp and also I wold
 haue ben glad for my lord shold haue knowyn what fr^uys that
 I myght haue don hys lordshyp in that Contray It' your geer ys
 send to you as Thom's Stampes sayth sauynge Mylsents Geer and
 the ⁷ Shafeson whych I Cannot entrete Thom's Stampes to goo
 therfor thys iij or iiij days Wherfor I knokkyd hym on the
 Crowne &c. It' loke that ye take hyde that the letter wer not
⁸ broken or that it Com to your hands &c. Wryten at london
 on Thursday next after Seynt ⁹ Erkenwolds Day &c.

¹⁰ John Pastou, k.

¹² by ¹⁷. A whole Sheet.

Paper Mark,

A Coronet.

Pl. xxvi. N^o 2.

⁷ A covering for a horse's head made of iron, jacked leather, &c.

⁸ The caution concerning the safe delivery of the Letter unopened, is worthy of ob-
 servation.

⁹ Erkenwald, Bishop of London, founded one Monastery at Chertsey, in Surrey, for
 men, and another at Barking, in Essex, for women, who before that time were often
 obliged

nor yet may, infomuch that fince the faid day, in Westminster-Hall and in other place, I have gone with a staff as a Ghost, as men faid, more like that I rofe out of the earth than out of a fair Lady's bed, and yet am in like cafe, faving I am in good hope to amend, wherefore I befeech his Lordship to pardon me, and at another time I fhall make double amends, for by my troth a man could not have hired me for five hundred marks (333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) with fo good will to have ridden into Norfolk, as to have at this feafon, there to have awaited on his Lordship; and alfo I would have been glad, for my Lord fhould have known what fervice that I might have done his Lordship in that country.

Item, your geer is fent to you as Thomas Stomps faith, faving Milifent's geer and the ⁷ Shaffron which I cannot intreat Thomas Stomps to go therefore this three or four days, wherefore I knocked him on the crown, &c.

Item, look that ye take heed that the Letter were not ⁸ broken ere that it came to your hands, &c. Written at London, on Thursday next after Saint ⁹ Erkenwald's day, (14th November).

¹⁰ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Thursday,
15th of November, 1470.
10 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

obliged to retire into France for want of a proper retreat in England. He was the Son either of Offa or Ina, a King of the East Angles, and died at Barking, in the latter end of the 7th century, when his body was interred in his own Cathedral, but was taken up in 1148, and deposited a-new with great veneration, on the 14th of November.

¹⁰ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

L E T T E R C X.

Sinescallus Comitis Oxonie nigro militi.

NON decet finescallo tam magni Comitis
 Ut Comes Oxonie verbis in Anglicis
 Scrittere epistolas vell suis in nuncijs
 Aliquid p'ponere si non in latinis

igit^r ille paup^rculus p'dicti Comitis
 Magnus finescallus magni cōmtatis
 Nuncupat^r noff latins in verbis
 Ap^d Knapton in curia in forma Judicis

Tibi nigro Militi salt'm et omīb'
 Notifico quod langdon ille homunculus
 Nullam pecuniam lib'are vult gentib'
 Quod est Magnū Impedimentū n'tris opib'

idcirco tibi mando sub pena Contemptus
 quod tu indilate p'prijs Manub'
 Scrbos tuas lettras q'ille homunculus
 Copiam pecunie deliberet gentib'

Sīn

These facetious Verses seem to have been written without any regard to quantity, the rhiming of the lines in each Stanza appears to be all that was attended to; they are here produced only as a specimen of the Latin Poetry of the age, for other merit of any kind they

L E T T E R CX.

Senescallus Comitiss Oxoniæ nigro Militi.

NON decet Senescallo tam magni Comitiss
 Ut Comes Oxoniæ verbis in Anglicis
 Scribere epistolas, vel suis in nuncijs
 Aliquid proponere si non in Latinis.

Igitur ille pauperculus prædicti Comitiss
 Magnus Senescallus magni Comitiss
 Nuncupatur Norff. Latinis in verbis
 Apud Knapton in curiâ in formâ Judicis.

Tibi nigro militi salutem, et omnibus
 Notifico, quod Langdon ille homunculus
 Nullam pecuniam liberare vult gentibus,
 Quod est magnum impedimentum nostris operibus ;

Idcirco tibi mando sub pænâ contemptûs,
 Quod tu indilate proprijs manibus
 Scribas tuas litteras, quod ille homunculus
 Copiam pecuniæ deliberat gentibus :

they have none, as they abound in false quantity, false concord, &c. &c. They were written by the Seneschal of the Earl of Oxford, but to whom, unless by the Black Knight we may suppose Sir John Paston to be intended, it is not to be discovered.

Sin autem p' littras has n'ras patentes
Ego et op'arij q' sunt consencientes
Omēs vna voce p'memus suos dentes
Nisi liberet pecuniam cū fumus egentes

Teste meîpo ap^d Knapton p'dicta
Est et michi testis Maria benedicta
Quod vicesimo die Julij non in derelicta
Erat fūma solidi res hec non est ficta.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 12.

Sin autem per litteras has nostras patentes
Ego and operarij, qui sunt consentientes
Omnes unâ voce promemus suos dentes
Nisi liberet pecuniam, cum fimus egentes.

Teste meipso apud Knapton predicta,
Est et mihi testis Maria Benedicta,
Quod vicesimo die Julij non inderelicta
Erat summe solidi, res hæc non est ficta.

20th of July.

A
C A T A L O G U E
OF THE
ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

A LIST OF THE
PLATES, and NUMBERS thereon.

A N
EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS.

CONTENTS OF THE PLATES.

A CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX.

The PLATES of AUTOGRAPHS, N° XXIV. XXV.

The PLATES of PAPER-MARKS, N° XXVI. XXVII.

The PLATE of SEALS, N° XXVIII.

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

E D W A R D IV.

V O L. IV.

Autographs.		Lettters	
Pl.	Nº	From and to whom.	
E D W A R D Nº.			
V.	14	1	THOMAS Playters, to John Paston, esq. or Margaret Paston.
XVIII.	9	2	Richard Calle, to John Paston.
III.	35	3	. . . Denyes, to John Paston.
II.	25	4	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XXV.	2	5	Thomas Denyes, to Margaret Paston, or William Paston.
XXIV.	5	6	John Paston, to his Cousin, Margaret Paston.
II.	25	7	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
V.	15	8	John Berney, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	25	9	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XXV.	16	10	James Gloys, to John Paston.
XXIV.	5	11	John Paston, to his cousin, Margaret Paston.
XXV.	10	12	William Jenney, to John Paston, esquire.
V.	18	13	John Ruffe, to John Paston.
IV.	9	14	John Paston, junior, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	22	15	Clement Paston, to John Paston.
XXV.	16	16	James Gloys, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	3	17	John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, to John Paston, esquire.
		18	 to John Paston.
XIX.	16	19	Thomas Howys, to John Paston, esquire.
XVIII.	9	20	Richard Calle, to John Paston.
III.	28	21	James Gresham, to John Paston, esquire.
XXV.	24	22	John Davy, to John Paston.
IV.	9	23	John Paston, junior, to John Paston.
II.	20	24	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XXIV.	6	25	John Paston, to his cousin, Margaret Paston.
XXIV.	2	26	John, lord Beauchamp, to sir Thomas Howys.
XXIV.	9	27	Sir George Browne, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	9	28	John Paston, junior, to John Paston.
		29	 to John Paston.
II.	25	30	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XXV.	13	31	Elizabeth Mundeford, to John Paston, esquire.

With their DATES, AUTOGRAPHS, and PAPER-MARKS.

E D W A R D IV.

V O L. IV.

Nº	Dates.	Year of Reign.	Paper Marks.	Pl. Nº
E D W A R D Nº				
1	April, 1461,	-	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
2	5 June, 1461,	-	A bull.	XXII. 16
3	before July, 1461,	-		
4	June or July, about 1461,	-		
5	July, 1461,	-		
6	12 July, 1461,	-	An helmet.	XXVI. 7
7	15 July, 1461,	-		
8	17 July, 1461,	-		
9	18 July, 1461,	-		
10	25 July, 1461,	-	An anchor.	XXII. 12
11	28 July, 1461,	-	A coronet.	XXVI. 2
12	August, 1461 or 1462,	1 or 2		
13	23 August, 1461,	-		
14	23 August, 1461 or 1462,	1 or 2	A cross flory.	XXVII. 12
15	August, about 1461 or 62,	1 or 2		
16	24 September, 1461,	-	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
17	12 October, 1461,	-		
18	Dec. or Jan. between 1460 and 62.	1 and 2	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
19	February, 1461-2,	-	Lozenge shield crowned.	IX. 13
20	15 March, 1461-2,	-	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII. 10
21	24 March, 1461-2,	-		
22	after 1460,	-		
23	October, after 1460,	-	A coronet.	XXVI. 2
24	November, between 1461 and 65,	1 and 5		
25	February, between 1461 and 65,	1 and 5	An anchor.	XXII. 12
26	28 August, between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
27	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
28	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
29	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
30	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
31	February, between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2

Vol. IV.

3 O

Autographs.		Letters	
Pl.	N ^o	From and to whom.	
V.	18	32	John Ruffe, to John Paston.
IV.	10	33	John Paston, junior, to Margaret Paston.
V.	18	34	John Ruffe, to John Paston.
V.	14	35	Thomas Playters, to John Paston.
XX.	29	36	John Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
XXV.	15	37	R. C. V. C. to John Paston.
III.	28	38	James Gresham, to Margaret Paston.
V.	16	39	John Wykes, to Margaret Paston.
XXV.	18	40	J. Daubeney, to John Paston.
XVIII.	9	41	Richard Calle, to John Paston, the younger.
XXIV.	3	42	Nicholas, abbot of Langley, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	43	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
III.	28	44	James Gresham, to John Paston.
XXV.	12	45	John Pampyng, to John Paston.
II.	25	46	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	20	47	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
XXV.	22	48	T. Davers, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	49	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
IV.	1	50	Edward IV. to John Paston, esquire.
XXIV.	1		
II.	25	51	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	52	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	53	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	54	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XVIII.	9	55	Richard Calle, to John Paston.
II.	25	56	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
IV.	2	57	John Paston, the youngest, to Margaret Paston.
II.	25	58	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	59	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XXIV.	7	60	John Wymondham, to John Paston.
XXIV.	8	61	John Felbrigge, to John Paston.
V.	16	62	John Wykys, to John Paston.
IV.	3	63	John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, to John Paston.
XXV.	19	64	Roger Taverham, to John Paston, esquire.
XXV.	19	65	Roger Taverham, to John Paston, esquire.
XXV.	17	66	B. D. M. S. to John Paston.
		67	Sir John Paston, to Margaret Paston.
XXV.	14	68	Elizabeth Ponyngs, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	69	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
IV.	12	70	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	24	71	William Worcester, to Margaret Paston.
XXV.	23	72	J. Straunge, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	73	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XXIV.	4	74	Hugh at Fenne, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	75	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.

Dates.		Year of Reign.	Paper Marks.	Pl. N°
32	1462, -	2		
33	5 July, between 1461 and 1469,	1 and 9	A pillar.	XXVI. 5
34	15 July, 1462 or 63, -	2 or 5	Bull's head and star.	IX. 12
35	after July, 1462, -	2	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII. 10
36	13 March, 1462-3, -	3	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
37	between 1462 and 65, -	2 and 5	Hand and flower.	XXVII. 11
38	between 1462 and 65, -	2 and 5	A ring.	XXII. 17
39	February, between 1462 and 65,	2 and 5		
40	2 July, 1463, -	3	Hand and flower.	XXVII. 11
41	July, 1463, -	3	A vine branch.	X. 11
42	4 September, 1463, -	3		
43	18 January, 1463-4, -	3	A bull.	IX. 10
44	26 January, 1463-4, -	3	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII. 10
45	last of February, 1463-4 -	3		
46	13 May, between 1463 and 65,	3 and 5	A bull.	XXII. 16
47	November, between 1463 and 66,	3 and 6	A bugle-horn strung.	XXVII. 15
48	29 January, between 1463 and 69,	3 and 9	A ring.	XXII. 17
49	8 June, 1464, -	4	A bugle-horn strung.	XXVII. 15
50	10 September, 1464, -	4	Bull's head, star, &c.	X. 3
51	May, between 1464 and 66,	4 and 6	A globe and cross.	XXVI. 3
52	October, between 1464 and 66,	4 and 6	A bull.	IX. 10
53	20 May, 1465, -	5	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
54	27 May, 1465, -	5		
55	10 July, 1465, -	5		
56	12 July, 1465, -	5		
57	14 September, 1465, -	5		
58	27 October, 1465, -	5	A crozier.	XXVI. 6
59	2 November, 1465, -	5	A flower.	XXI. 3
60	10 November, 1465, -	5	A bull.	XXVII. 14
61	27 January, 1465-6, -	5	The letter C.	XXVII. 8
62	17 February, 1465-6, -	5	A radiated star of 18 points, and p ^h s.	XXVI. 4
63	31 August, before 1466, -	6		
64	June, before 1466, -	6		
65	July, before 1466, -	6		
66	September or October, before 1466,	6	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
67	Between 1460 and 70, -	1 and 10		
68	15 December, between 1465 and 71,	5 and 11		
69	29 October, 1466, -	6		
70	February, after 1466, -	6	Bull's head and star.	XI. 10
71	after 1466, -	6		
72	January, between 1466 and 69,	6 and 9	A coronet.	XXVI. 2
73	December, between 1466 and 70,	6 and 10		
74	March or April, between 1467 and 69,	7 and 9	Rose and cross.	XXVI. 1
75	9 July, 1468, -	8	A snake.	XXVII. 10

Autographs.		Letters	
Pl.	Nº	From and to whom.	
XIX.	16	76	Thomas Howys, to the lord cardinal and archbishop of Canterbury.
IV.	9	77	Sir John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esq. or John Dawbeney.
IV.	9	78	Sir John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esq. or John Dawbeney.
II.	21	79	William Paston, to the bailiff of Mawteby.
II.	25	80	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight. —
IV.	12	81	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
		82	Anthony Widville, lord Scales, to
		83	Anthony Wydville, lord Scales, to
IV.	9	84	Sir John Paston, knight, to John Paston.
IV.	12	85	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight. —
XXV.	21	86	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
XXV.	21	87	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
XVIII.	9	88	Richard Calle, to Margaret Paston.
		89	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	90	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight. —
IV.	9	91	Sir John Paston, to Master Wryttyll.
IV.	9	92	Sir John Paston, to Master Wryttyl.
II.	25	93	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
IV.	9	94	Sir John Paston, to Margaret Paston.
		95	Sir John Paston, to John Paston, and to none other. —
II.	25	96	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
		97	 to sir John Heveningham, Thomas Wingfield, &c.
IV.	12	98	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
IV.	12	99	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
XXV.	21	100	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight. —
XXV.	21	101	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
II.	25	102	Margaret Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
XXV.	21	103	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
XXV.	21	104	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
XXIV.	1	105	Edward IV. to William Swan, gentleman. —
XXV.	20	106	R. L. to John Paston, esquire.
XXV.	21	107	John Paston, to Margaret Paston.
VII.	3	108	John de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, to the bailiff, &c. of Eye.
IV.	9	109	Sir John Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
		110	The Seneschal of the earl of Oxford, to the Black Knight.

Dates.			Year of Reign.	Paper Marks.	Pl.	N°.
76	10 October, 1468,	-	8	Bull's head and star.	XI.	10
77	9 November, 1468,	-	8	Bull's head and star.	X.	1
78	17 March, 1468-9,	-	9	A ring.	XXII.	17
79	perhaps 1469,	-	9			
80	3 April, 1469,	-	9			
81	7 April, 1469,	-	9			
82	10 April, 1469,	-	9			
83	10 April, 1469,	-	9			
84	April, 1469,	-	9			
85	April, 1469,	-	9			
86	1469,	-	9	Bull's head and star.	XXII.	15
87	May, 1469,	-	9			
88	1469,	-	9	Radiated star, & phys.	VIII.	5
89	before Michaelmas, 1469,	-	9	Bull's head and star.	XXII.	13
90	1 September, 1469,	-	9			
91	September, 1469,	-	9			
92	10 September, 1469,	-	9	A coronet.	XXVI.	2
93	12 September, 1469,	-	9	Bull's head and star.	XXII.	13
94	15 September, 1469,	-	9	A demy bull.	X.	5
95	18 September, 1469,	-	9	A ring.	XXII.	17
96	22-30 September, 1469,	-	9	Bull's head and star.	XXII.	13
97	September, 1469,	-	9	Radiated star, & phys.	VIII.	5
98	September, 1469,	-	9			
99	5 October, 1469,	-	9			
100	December or January, 1469,	-	9	Bull's head and star.	XXII.	13
101	23 January, 1469-70,	-	9	Bull's head and star.	X.	1
102	5 February, 1469-70,	-	9	Crofs keys.	XXVII.	13
103	22 June, 1470,	-	10			
104	25 June, 1470,	-	10			
105	7 September, 1470,	-	10	Lozenge shield and coronet.	XXVII.	9
106	22 October, 1470,	-	10			
107	April, between 1470 and 74,	-	10 & 14			
108	22 October, 1470,	-	10	{ A flower within a circle and crofs.		
109	15 November, 1470, (49 H. VI.)	-	10	A coronet.	XXVI.	2
110	20 July,	-	-			

CATALOGUE of the SEALS affixed to the preceding
E D W A R D IV.

N ^o	Letters from and to whom.
2	RICHARD CALLE, to John Paston.
3	. . . Denyes, to John Paston.
8	John Berney, to John Paston, esquire.
9	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
13	John Ruffe, to John Paston.
16	James Gloys, to John Paston, esquire.
19	Thomas Howys, to John Paston, esquire.
20	Richard Calle, to John Paston.
24	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
28	John Paston, junior, to John Paston.
32	John Ruffe, to John Paston.
34	John Ruffe, to John Paston.
40	J. Daubeney, to John Paston.
41	Richard Calle, to John Paston, the younger.
44	James Gresham, to John Paston.
46	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
49	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
52	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
55	Richard Calle, to John Paston.
56	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
57	John Paston, the youngest, to Margaret Paston.
59	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
63	John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, to John Paston.
64	Roger Taverham, to John Paston.
65	Roger Taverham, to John Paston.
66	B. D. M. S. to John Paston.
71	William Worcester, to Margaret Paston.
73	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
74	Hugh at Fenne, to sir John Paston, knight.
75	Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
78	Sir John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire, or John Dawbeney.
86	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
88	Richard Calle, to Margaret Paston.
99	John Paston, to sir John Paston, knight.
102	Margaret Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
108	John de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, to the bailiffs, &c. of Eye.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

EDWARD IV.

N ^o	Seals.	Plate.	N ^o
2	Eagle's head erased,	XXIII.	8
3	☉ and coronet,	XXVIII.	1
8	A braided piece of twine,		
9	A fleur-de-lys,	XXIII.	7
13	A cross flory,	XIV.	21
16	A rose,	XIV.	5
19	A bear passant,	XXVIII.	3
20	Eagle's head erased,	XXIII.	6
24	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
28	A stag couchant,	XXVIII.	4
32	A cross flory,	XIV.	21
34	A cross flory,	XIV.	21
40	W. and coronet,	XIV.	9
41	Eagle's head erased, &c.	XXIII.	8
44	A grasshopper,	XIV.	2
46	A stag couchant,	XXVIII.	4
49	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
52	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
55	Eagles head erased,	XXIII.	8
56	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
57	Fleur-de-lys and annulet,	XIV.	22
59	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
63	A wheat sheaf, &c.	XXVIII.	5
64	Imperfect,		
65	A head and helmet,	XXVIII.	6
66	A flower,	XXVIII.	2
71	Imperfect,		
73	A fleur-de-lys.	XIV.	4
74	Flourishing tree and H & J,	XIV.	13
75	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
78	Fleur-de-lys surrounded,	XIV.	23
86	Fleur-de-lys and annulet,	XIV.	22
88	Eagle's head erased,	XXIII.	8
99	Fleur-de-lys and annulet,	XIV.	22
102	Fleur-de-lys,	XXIII.	7
108	A lion rampant, double queue,		

E D W A R D IV.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Autographs. Pl.	No	Letters.	Autographs.
XXIV.	1	105	R. E. Rex Edvardus.
	2	26	J. Beauchamp.
	3	42	Be your welewylland, abbot of Langeley.
	4	74	Yo ^r owen H. atte ffenne.
	5	6, 11.	Jon. Paston.
	6	25	J. P. John Paston.
	7	60	Yo ^r . poer cosyn and ffrend J. Wymondham.
	8	61	By yo ^r . cosyn, John Felbrigge.
	9	27	Be yowr howne, G. Browne, K.
XXV.	10	12	Will'm Jenney.
	11	5	Th. Denyes.
	12	45	John Pampynge.
	13	31	Youre owyn, Elyzabeth Mundeford.
	14	68	By your awnt, Elizabeth Ponyngs.
	15	37	R. C. V. C.
	16	10. 16.	James Gloys.
	17	66	B. D. M. S.
	18	40	By yo ^r por f ^r vūt, J. Daubeney.
	19	64, 65.	Yo ^r . chapeleyn, Roger Taverham.
	20	106	R. L.
	21	{ 86, 87, 100. 101, 103, 104. 107	{ J. P. John Paston.
	22	48	T. D. T. Davers.
	23	72	By yowr J. Straunge.
	24	22	Be yo ^r man Joh Davy.

E D W A R D IV.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper-Marks. Pl.	N ^o	Letters.	Paper - Marks.
XXVI.	1	74	Rose and cross.
	2	11, 23, 72. 92, 108.	} A coronet.
	3	51	
	4	62	} A globe and cross. A radiated star of eighteen points, having p ^{ys} in the centre.
	5	33	
	6	58	A pillar.
	7	6	A crossier
			Something resembling a helmet.
XXVII.	8	61	The letter C.
	9	105	} Two pales within a lozenge shield, surmounted by a coronet.
	10	75	
	11	37, 40.	A snake.
	12	14	Hand and flower.
	13	102	A cross flory.
	14	60	Cross keys.
	15	47, 49.	A bull.
			A bugle-horn strung.

EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS.

E D W A R D IV.

Pl. XXVIII.	Nº		Letters.
	1	Thomas Denyes. The letter T. surmounted by a coronet.	3
	2	B. D. M. S. A flower or plant resembling a thistle or pomegranate.	66
	3	Thomas Howys. A bear passant, having over his back a branch of some flower or tree.	19
	4	John Paston.—Margaret Paston. A stag couchant. The lines appearing on each side of the paper, represent the threads by which the letter was bound round and fastened.	28, 46.
	5	John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk. A wheat sheaf banded, having on each side an ear or stem of wheat. The seal has a braid of twine round it, and is on red wax, and very perfect; the lines on each side represent the paper which fastened the letter. The motto is illegible.	63
	6	Roger Taverham. The head of some animal or bird erased and placed upon an helmet, having the letter I on one side of it, and B on the other. The seal is octangular.	65

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

E D W A R D IV.

Plate.	Autographs, Royal.—Noble. —Commoners.	Total.	Paper- Marks.	Seals.
XXIV.	1 7			
XXV.	- 15			
XXVI.	- -		7	
XXVII.	- -		8	
XXVIII.	- -			6. Editor, &c.
	1 22	24	15	6. Editor, &c.

A CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX. 475

Arranging all the LETTERS, written during the Reign of EDWARD IV. which are contained in Part of the I. and II. and in the whole IV. Volume of this Work, nearly according to their Dates.

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
Vol. I.	Vol. IV.		
N ^o I.		4 April, 1461.	1
II.		18 April, 1461.	
	N ^o I.	April, 1461.	
III.		1461.	
IV.		May or June, 1461.	
	II.	5 June, 1461.	
V.		21 June, 1461.	
	III.	Before July, 1461.	
	IV.	June or July, about 1461.	
VI.		10 July, 1461.	
	V.	July, 1461.	
	VI.	12 July, 1461.	
	VII.	15 July, 1461.	
VII.		16 July, 1461.	
	VIII.	17 July, 1461.	
	IX.	18 July, 1461.	
	X.	25 July, 1461.	
	XI.	28 July, 1461.	
	XII.	August, 1461.	
	XIII.	23 August, 1461.	
	XIV.	23 August, 1461 or 1462.	1 or 2
	XV.	August, about 1461 or 1462.	1 or 2
	XVI.	24 September, 1461.	1
VIII.		4 October, 1461.	
IX.		30 August, 1461.	
	XVII.	12 October, 1461.	
	XVIII.	December or January, between 1460 and 1462.	1 and 2
	XIX.	February, 1461-2.	1
	XX.	15 March, 1461-2.	2
X.		March, 1461-2.	
	XXI.	24 March, 1461-2.	
XI.		25 March, 1462.	
	XXII.	. . . after 1460.	
	XXIII.	October, after 1460.	
	XXIV.	November, between 1461 and 1465.	1 and 5
	XXV.	February, between 1461 and 1465.	
	XXVI.	28 August, between 1461 and 1466.	1 and 6
	XXVII.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
Vol. I.	Vol. IV.		
	XXVIII.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXIX.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXX.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXXI.	February, between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXXII.	. . . 1462.	2
XII.		12 May, 1462.	
XIII.		. . . 1462.	
XIV.		. . . 1462.	
	XXXIII.	5 July, between 1461 and 1469.	1 and 9
	XXXIV.	15 July, 1462 or 1463.	2 or 3
	XXXV.	After July, 1462.	2
XV.		1 November, 1462.	
XVI.		. . . 1462 or 1463.	2 or 3
	XXXVI.	13 March, 1462-3.	3
	XXXVII.	. . . between 1462 and 1465.	2 and 5
	XXXVIII.	. . . between 1462 and 1465.	
	XXXIX.	February, between 1462 and 1465.	
	XL.	2 July, 1463.	3
	XLI.	July, 1463.	
	XLII.	4 September, 1463.	
XVII.		10 December, 1463.	
	XLIII.	18 January, 1463-4.	
	XLIV.	26 January, 1463-4.	
XVIII.		28 January, 1463-4.	
	XLV.	Last of February, 1463-4.	
XIX.		1 March, 1463-4.	
	XLVI.	13 May, between 1463 and 1465.	3 and 5
	XLVII.	November, between 1463 and 1466.	3 and 6
	XLVIII.	29 January, between 1463 and 1469.	3 and 9
	XLIX.	8 June, 1464.	4
	L.	10 September, 1464.	
	LI.	May, between 1464 and 1466.	4 and 6
	LII.	October, between 1464 and 1466.	
	LIII.	20 May, 1465.	5
	LIV.	27 May, 1465.	
	LV.	10 July, 1465.	
	LVI.	12 July, 1465.	
	LVII.	14 September, 1465.	
	LVIII.	27 October, 1465.	
	LIX.	2 November, 1465.	
	LX.	10 November, 1465.	
	LXI.	27 January, 1465-6.	
	LXII.	17 February, 1465-6.	5
	LXIII.	31 August, before 1466.	6
	LXIV.	June, before 1466.	

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
Vol. I.	Vol. IV.		
	LXV.	July, before 1466.	
	LXVI.	September or October, before 1466.	
	LXVII.	 between 1460 and 1470.	1 and 10
XX.	LXVIII.	15 December, between 1465 and 1471	5 and 11
		30 April, 1466.	6
	LXIX.	29 October, 1466.	
	LXX.	February, after 1466.	
	LXXI.	 after 1466.	
XXI.	LXXII.	January, between 1466 and 1469.	6 and 9
		 between 1466 and 1469.	
XXII.	LXXIII.	December, between 1466 and 1470.	6 and 10
Vol. II.	LXXIV.	March or April, between 1467 and 1469.	7 and 9
XXIII.		Dated wrong.	
		8 July, 1468.	8
	LXXV.	9 July, 1468.	
	LXXVI.	10 October, 1468.	
	LXXVII.	9 November, 1468.	
	LXXVIII.	17 March, 1468-9.	9
	LXXIX.	Perhaps 1469.	
XXIV.		 1469.	
	LXXX.	3 April, 1469.	
	LXXXI.	7 April, 1469.	
	LXXXII.	10 April, 1469.	
	LXXXIII.	10 April, 1469.	
	LXXXIV.	April, 1469.	
	LXXXV.	April, 1469.	9
	LXXXVI.	 1469.	
	LXXXVII.	May, 1469.	
	LXXXVIII.	 1469.	
XXV.		22 May, 1469.	
XXVI.		6 July, 1469.	
XXVII.		 1469 or 1474.	9 or 14
	LXXXIX.	Before Michaelmas, 1469.	9
	XC.	1 September, 1469.	
	XCI.	September, 1469.	
	XCII.	10 September, 1469.	
	XCIII.	12 September, 1469.	
	XCIV.	15 September, 1469.	
	XCV.	18 September, 1469.	
	XCVI.	22--30 September, 1469.	
	XCVII.	September, 1469.	
XXVIII.	XCVIII.	26 September, 1469.	
	XCIX.	September, 1469.	
		5 October, 1469.	

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
Vol. II.	Vol. IV.		
	C.	December or January, 1469.	
	CI.	23 January, 1469 or 1470.	
	CII.	5 February, 1469 or 1670.	
XXIX.		18 July, 1469 or 1470.	9 or 10
XXX.		February or March, 1469 or 1470.	9 or 10
XXXI.		7 May, between 1466 and 1476.	6 or 16
XXXII.		27 March, 1470.	10
	CIII.	22 June, 1470.	
	CIV.	25 June, 1470.	10
XXXIII.		9 July, 1470.	
XXXIV.		. . 1470 (1472 query?)	
XXXV.		5 August, 1470.	
	CV.	7 September, 1470.	
XXX VI.		11 October, 1470.	
	CVI.	22 October, 1470.	
	CVII.	April, between 1470 and 1474.	10 and 14
	CVIII.	22 October, 1470.	10
	CIX.	15 November, 1470 (49 H. VI.)	
	CX.	20 July.	

Nov. 10 - 1907

CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS.

V O L. IV.			
Letter.	Page.	Line.	
VII	27	13	<i>dele have</i>
		14	<i>dele him</i>
XIV	48	19	<i>for Sundroys read Sundreys</i>
XV	57	3	<i>for then read than</i>
XVI	59	6	<i>for Blakes read Blake's</i>
XVII	63	5	<i>for riday read friday</i>
XVIII	64	9	<i>for bet read betr</i>
	66	21	<i>for yt yt prfon read yt ye prfon</i>
		22	<i>for ye read yt</i>
XXVI	99	8	<i>after to him add a comma,</i>
XXXII	115	2	<i>for Controuller read Controller</i>
		6	<i>for licence read license</i>
XXXIV	120	18	<i>for that he read that-the</i>
XXXVIII	133	23	<i>after chattel add a comma,</i>
XLIII	155	4	<i>for litle read little</i>
LIV	211	16	<i>for affension read ascension</i>
LV	213	9	<i>after understood dele comma and place it after now,</i>
LX	241	9	<i>after (provided) add a comma,</i>
LXXVI	300	13	<i>for ys to read ys fo</i>
LXXXI	320	1 Note, 2	<i>for reig read reign</i>
LXXXVI	340	25	<i>for festrx read festux</i>
LXXXVIII	352	Note, 7	<i>after sphere dele to them</i>
	353	Note, 7	<i>for bualities, enables read qualities, enable</i>
LXXXIX	359	Note, 3	<i>for avowale read avowal</i>
	365	3	<i>after do dele comma,</i>
XC	367	9	<i>after departed dele period and add a comma,</i>
XCI	370	Note, 7	<i>for servant's read servants'</i>
CVIII	448	Note, 1	<i>for was read were</i>
CIX	453	29	<i>for (advise) read (use)</i>
CX	458	17	<i>for Scribos read Scribas</i>
	461	2	<i>for and read &</i>
		5	<i>for predicta read prædicta</i>
		8	<i>for summe read summa</i>

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

V O L. IV.

Edward IV. Frontispiece to Vol. IV. to be placed before the Title Pages.

Plates XXIV.—XXVIII. to be placed following each other at the End of the Volume.

To those Gentlemen who have the whole Work to bind, the Editor would recommend the placing of the Plates in a thin Volume by themselves, as the same Plate is often referred to in different Volumes; this Disposition will render the Plates more useful, as they will be more easily consulted.

Autographs.

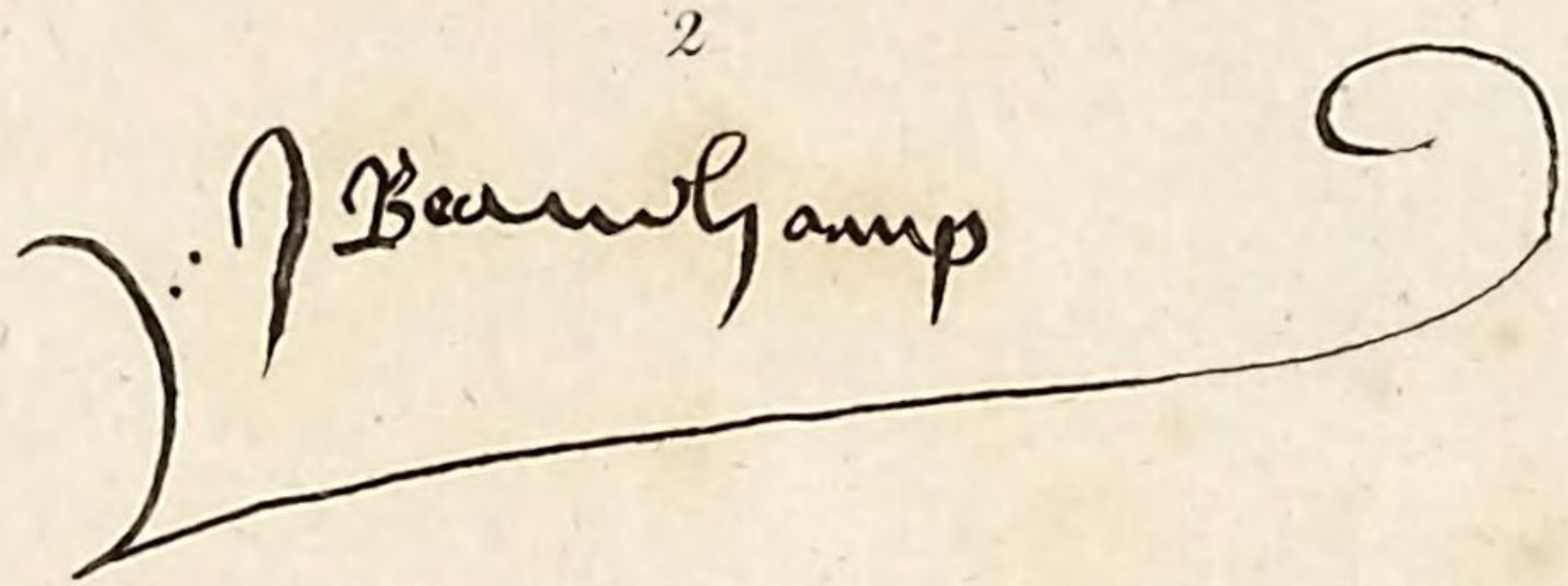
Edward IV. 1460 — 1483.

1



2

Beauchamp



3

Be your welwylle
Abbot of Langley

4

W^m de la
Sattoffme

5

W^m de la
Sattoffme

6

W^m de la
Sattoffme

7

a for good for the
of Edmundham

8

By the
of the

9

Be your Honore
C^o Browne

Autographs.

Edward IV. 1460 — 1483.

¹⁰
William Jonnes

¹¹
Th. Dwyer

¹²
John Palmer

¹³
George & John Elizabeth
and others

¹⁴
By your daughter
Elizabeth Palmer

¹⁵
R. C. V. C.

¹⁶
James Lloyd

¹⁷
B. D. W. D.

¹⁸
By the power of
J. Danvers

¹⁹
To the Honorable Roger
Pemberton

²⁰
R. P. —

²¹
J. P.

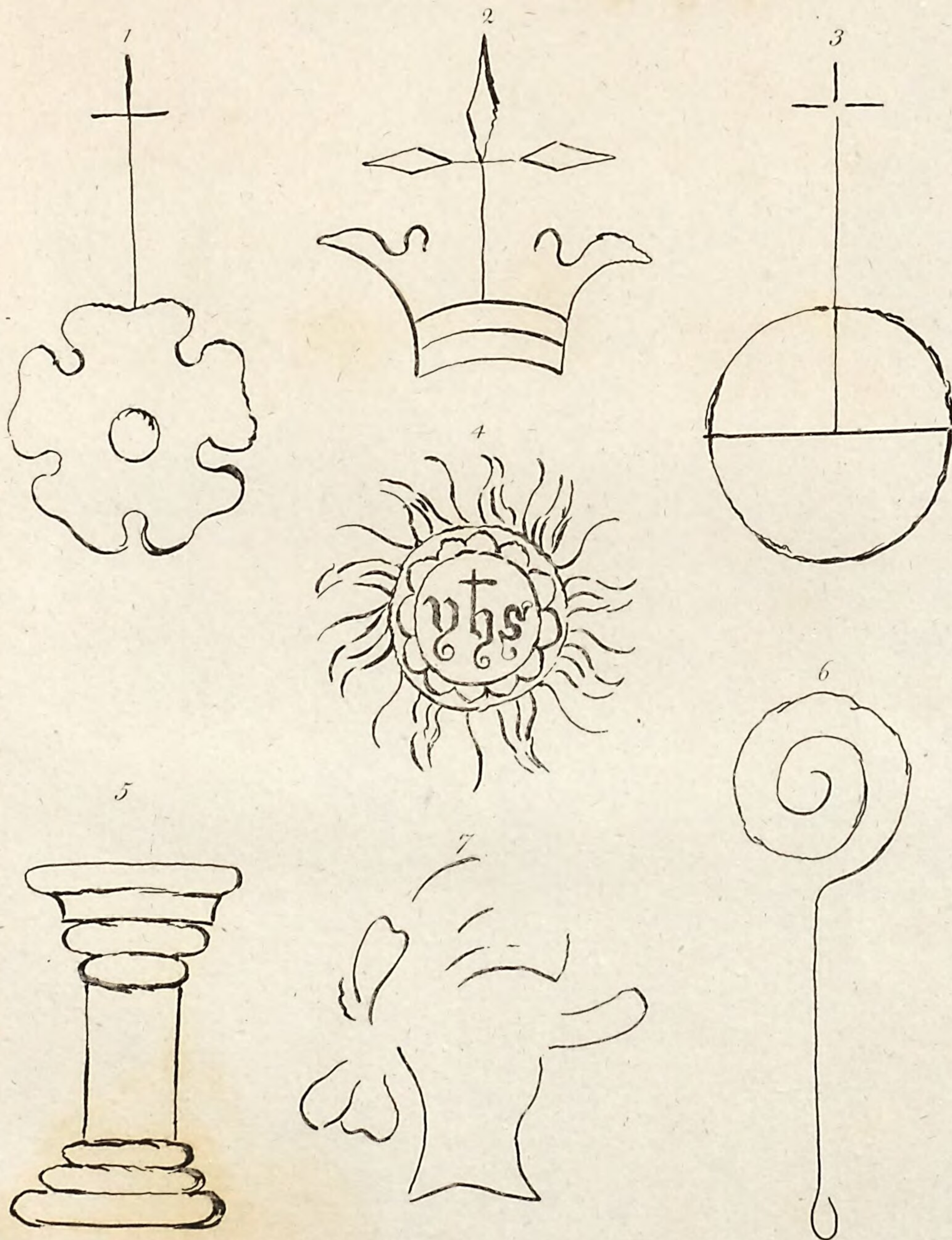
²²
J. P.

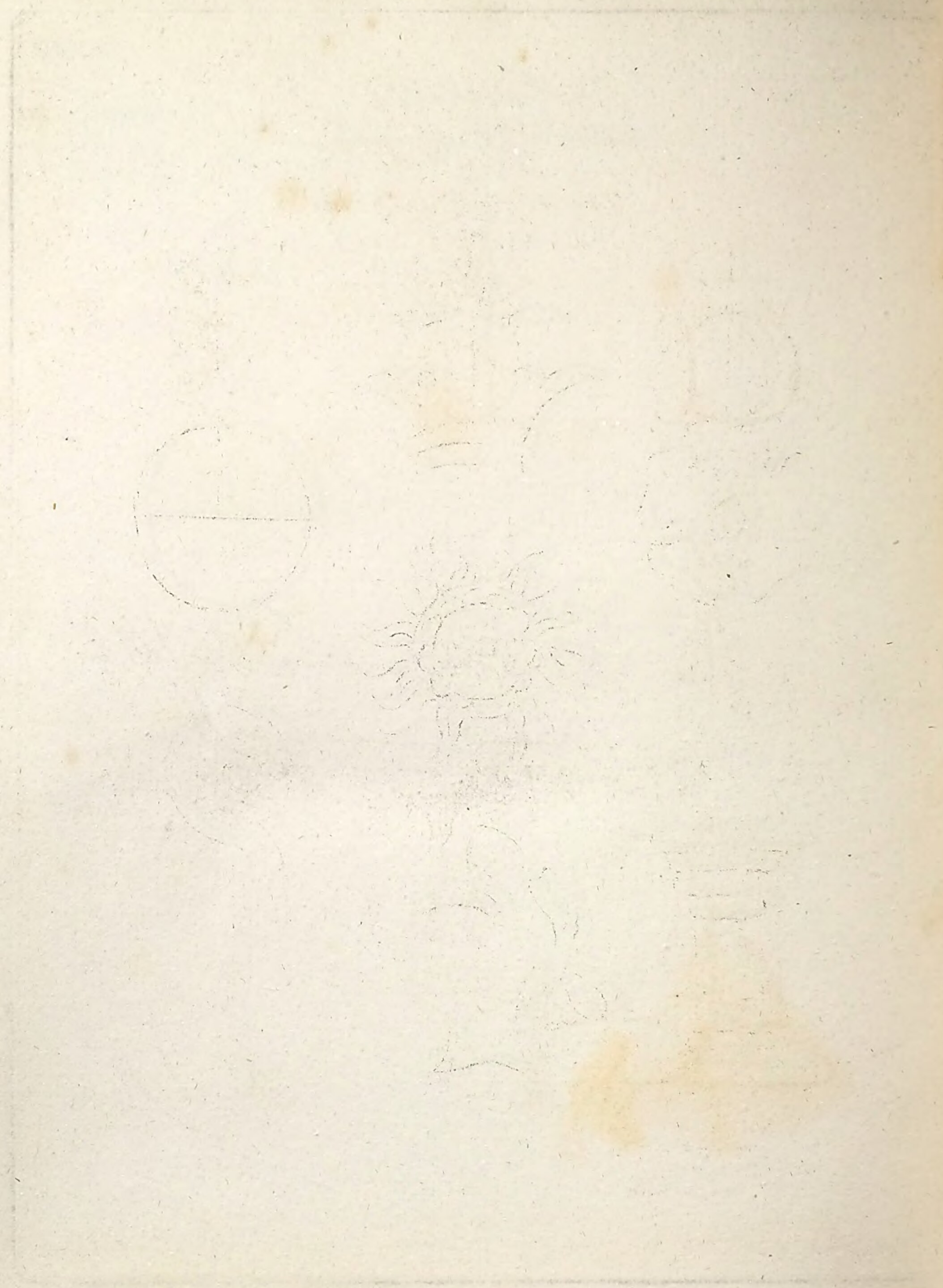
²³
By the power of
J. Danvers

²⁴
By the power of
J. Danvers —

Paper Marks.

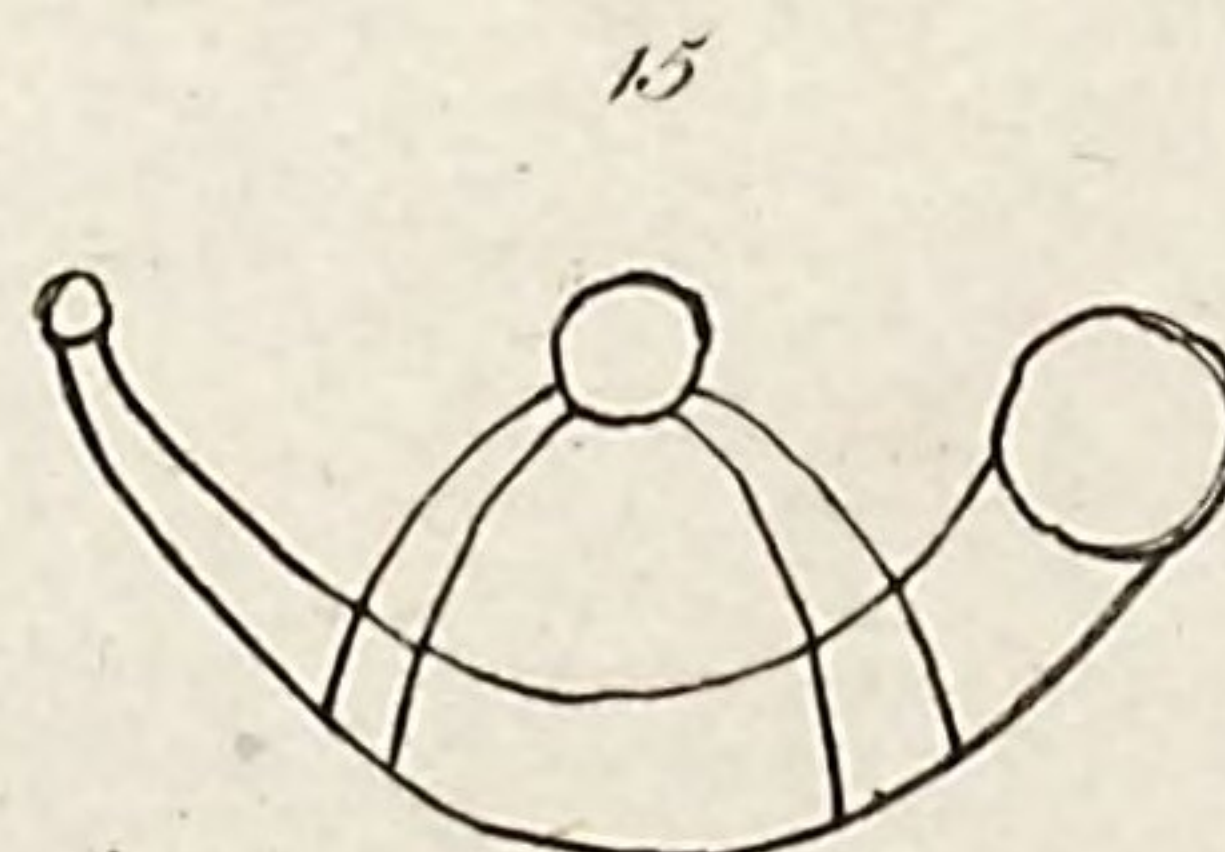
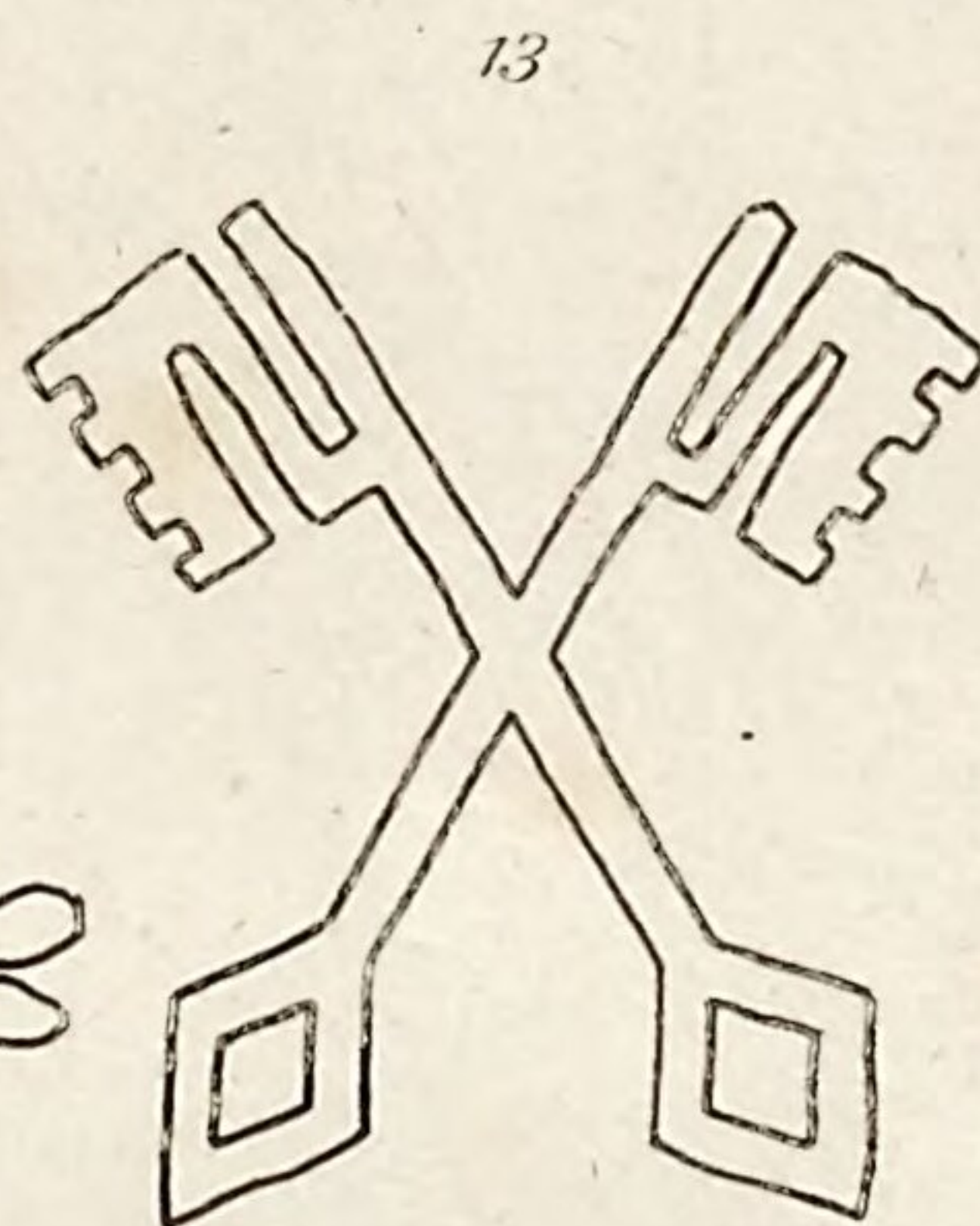
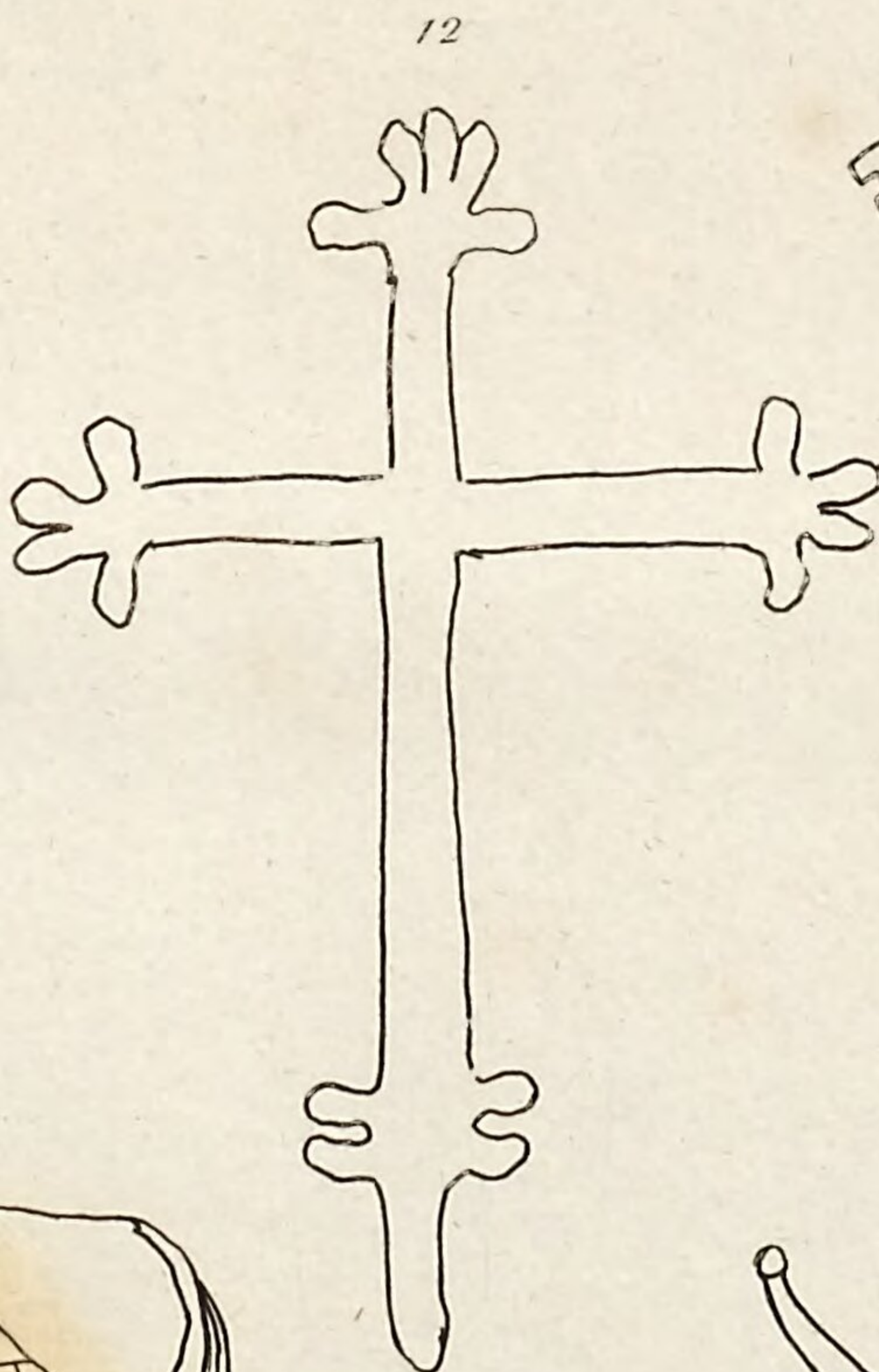
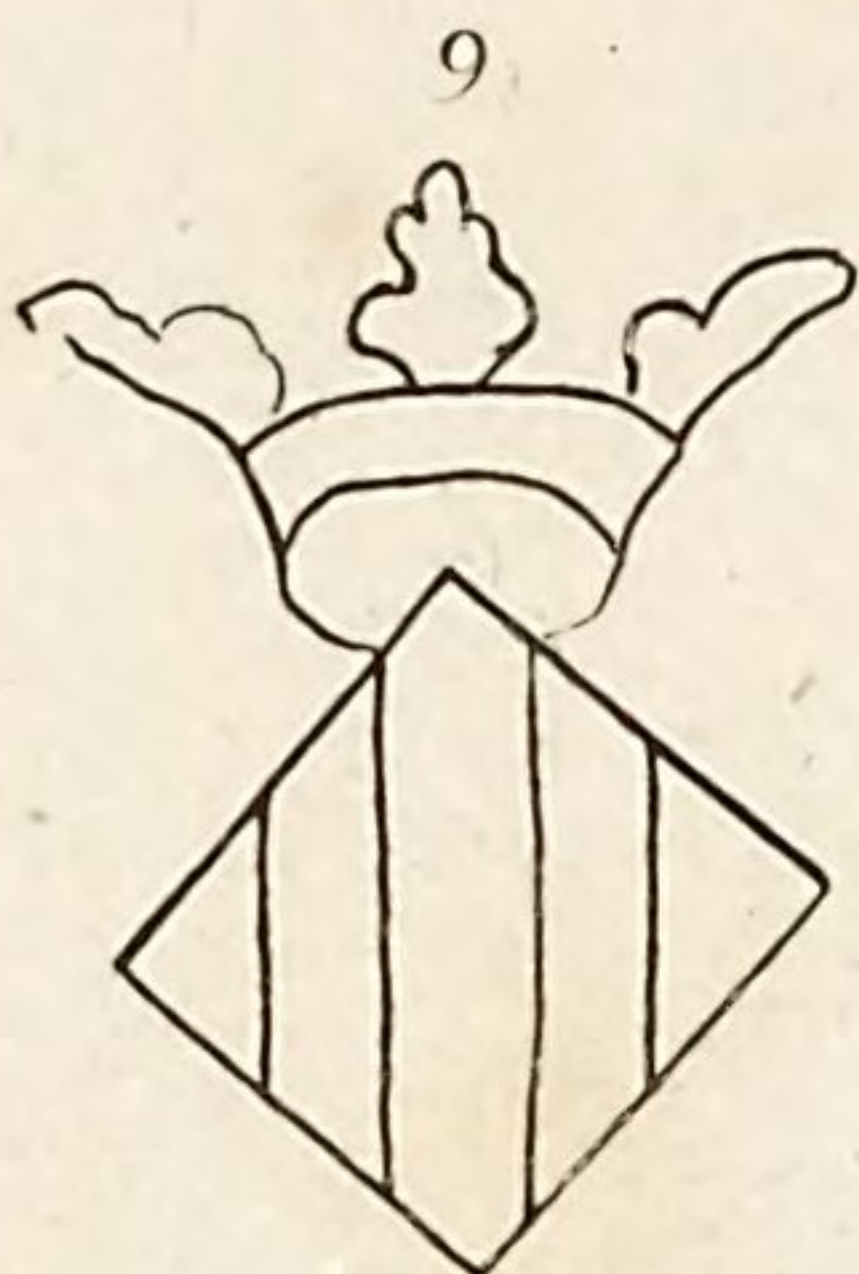
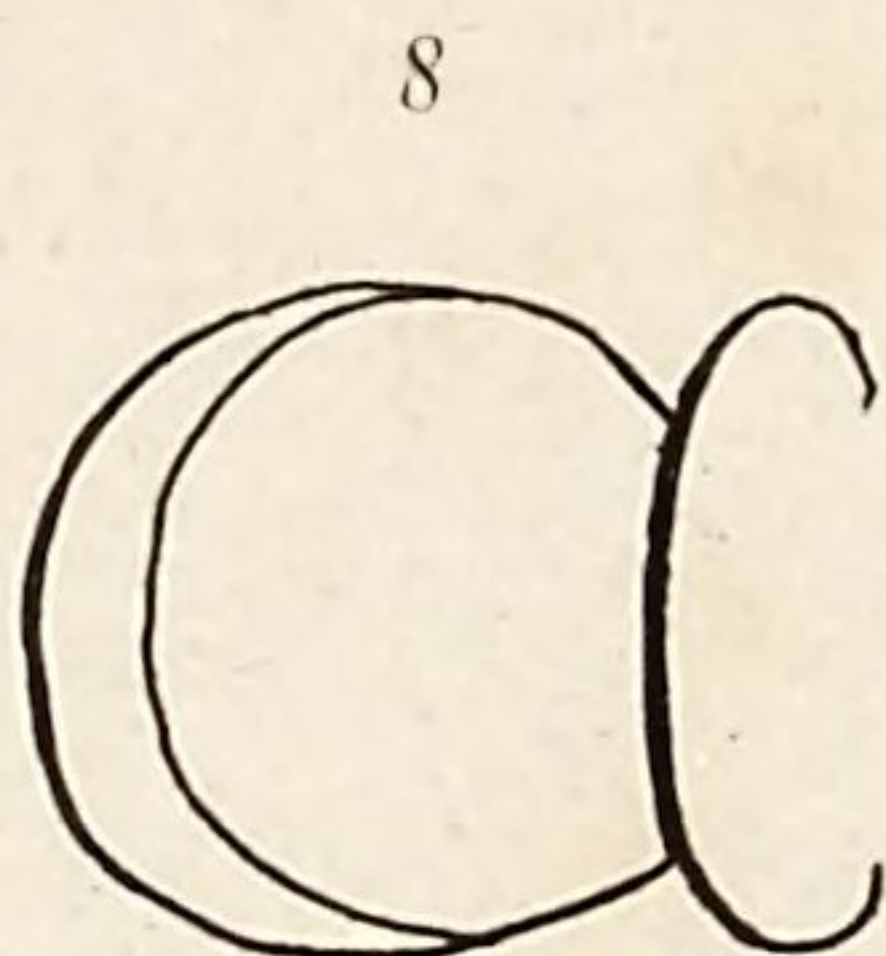
Edward IV. 1460 — 1483.





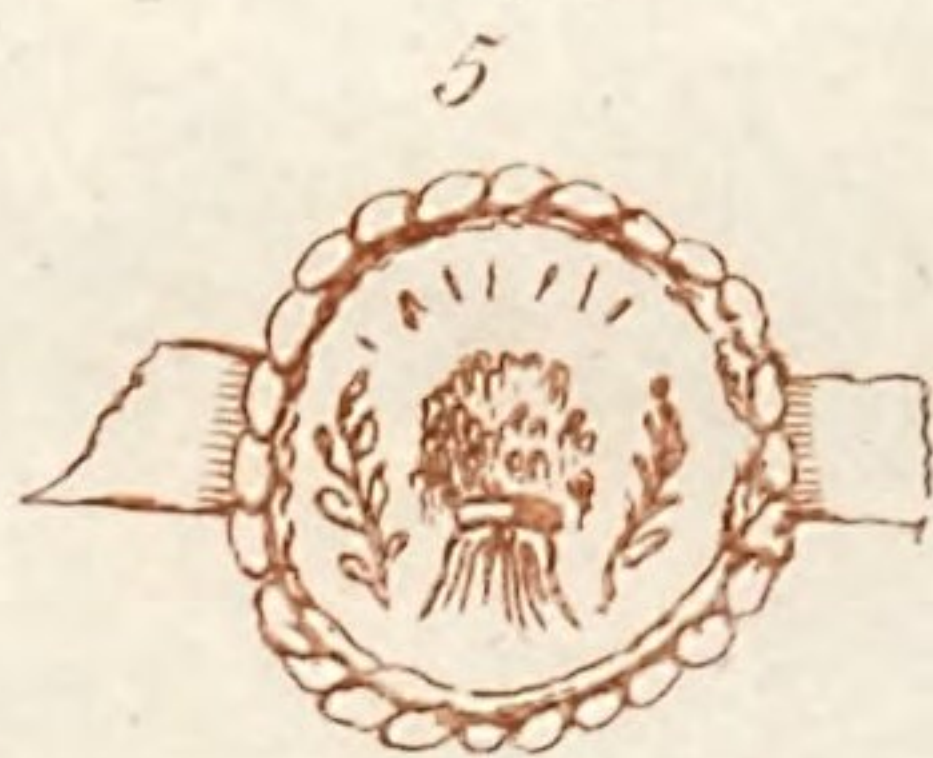
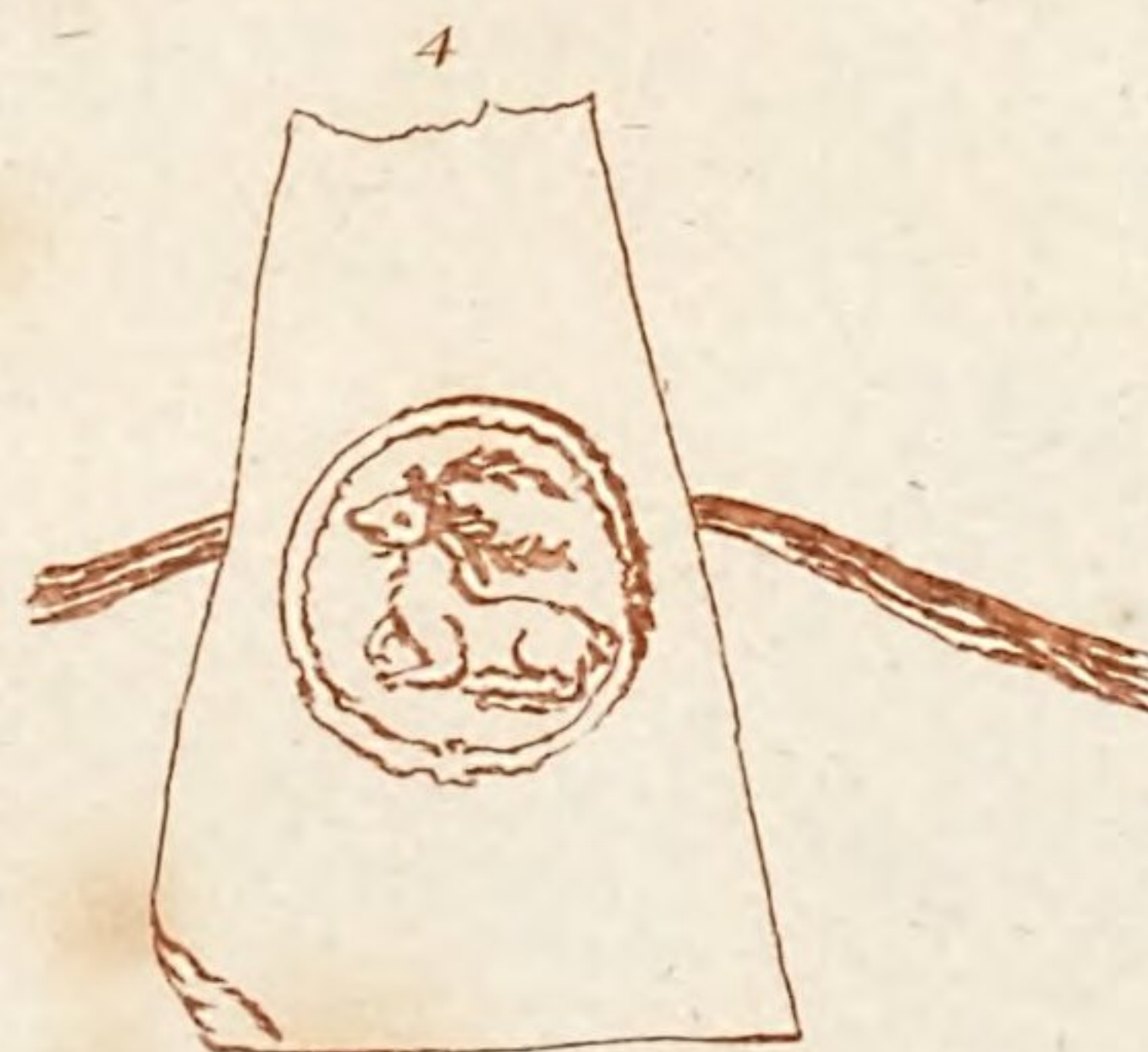
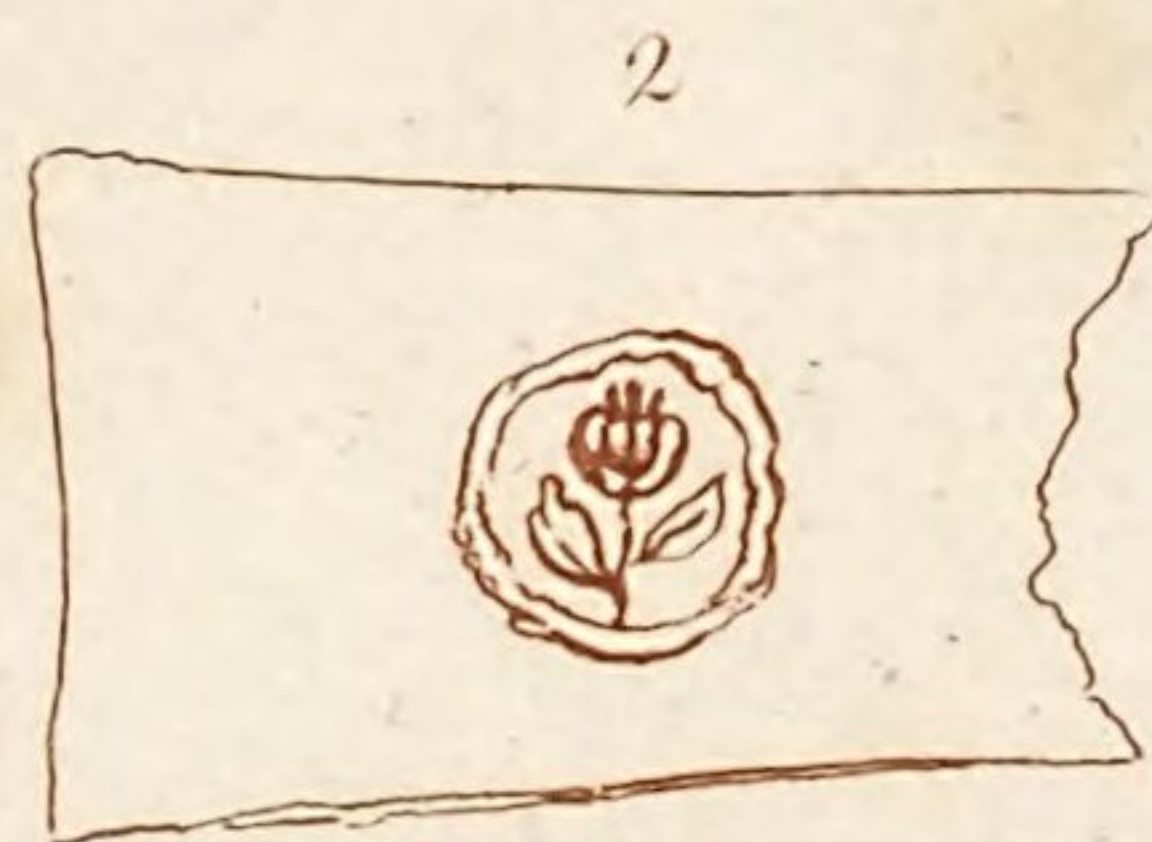
Paper Marks.

Edward IV.....1460 — 1483.



Seals.

Edward IV.....1460 — 1483.

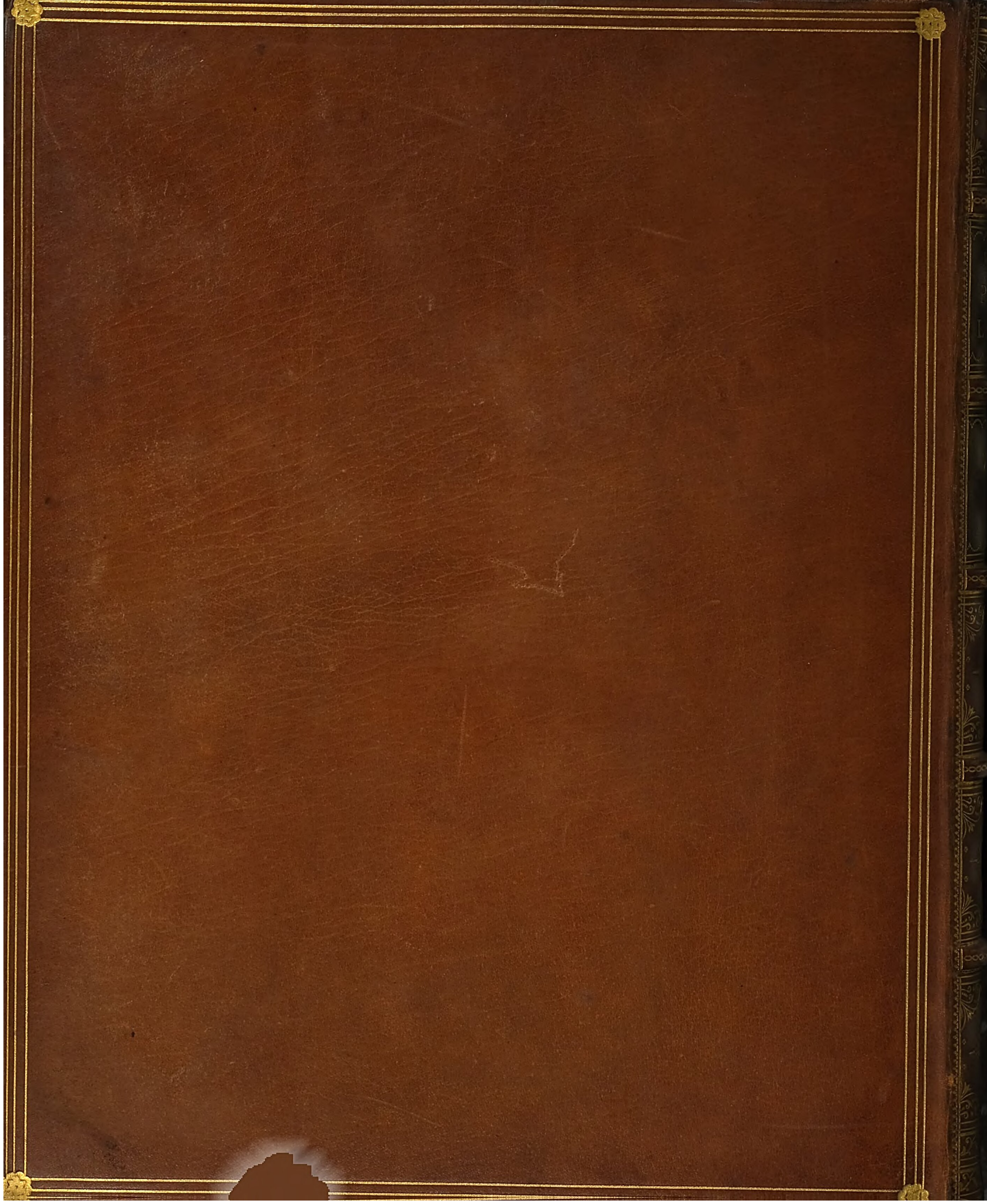


These Autographs, Paper-Marks, and Seals, were
all copied from the Originals in September 1788
by the Editor.

J^d Fenn







Fenn, John

Original Letters written during the Reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV and
Richard III. by various Persons of Rank or Consequence

Bd.: 4. 1789

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